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Preserving the Past For the Future

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FLASH BACK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Col. Jerome F. Thompson 1
Attack on Fayetteville 8
Views of Young Researcher . . 13
Queries 14
The Good Old Days 17
Public School at Durham 24
The Fayetteville Angels 26
Letter Hidden for 60 Yrs. 28
News Clips Biography 30
An Early Ozark Xmas Tree . . 46

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FLASH BACK

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Preserving the Past For the Future

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COLONEL JEROME F. THOMPSON: OZARK REDLEG

by Colonel Jack Diggs

One of the leaders of Washington County men who have served the nation was Colonel Jerome F. Thompson, whose military career began in 1914 and continued through 42 years of service, most of it with the Arkansas National Guard. He was very active in civic and veterans' affairs and was a member of the Washington County Historical Society.

Colonel Thompson was born at Farmington on November 24, 1895. His father was James William Thompson (1865-1907), called "J.W." The father owned a farm between Farmington and Fayetteville and taught in a one-room school. He was elected to the Arkansas Senate from the county and died in Little Rock during his tenure.

Martha Bollinger Thompson (1867-1955), "Mattie", was his mother. The family moved to Fayetteville in 1901, where she later worked for Guisinger's Music Store and was remembered by older residents as a very nice lady.

She was a descendant of Colonel James Hunter, a prominent North Carolina patriot who was a daring Regulator with Herman Husbands who led resistance to the British at the time of the American Revolution. He commanded a company at the battle of Almance, about 1770, before the War; many of the company were taken prisoner. He fought in the battle of Guilford Court House and was afterward sent to Philadelphia to carry dispatches to General Washington. He was promoted for gallantry.

Jerome Thompson went to school in Fayetteville and attended the University of Arkansas. He married Margaret C. Thompson, and they have a daughter, Margaret Thompson. In civil life, before World War II, he was a provisions sales representative for 15 years.

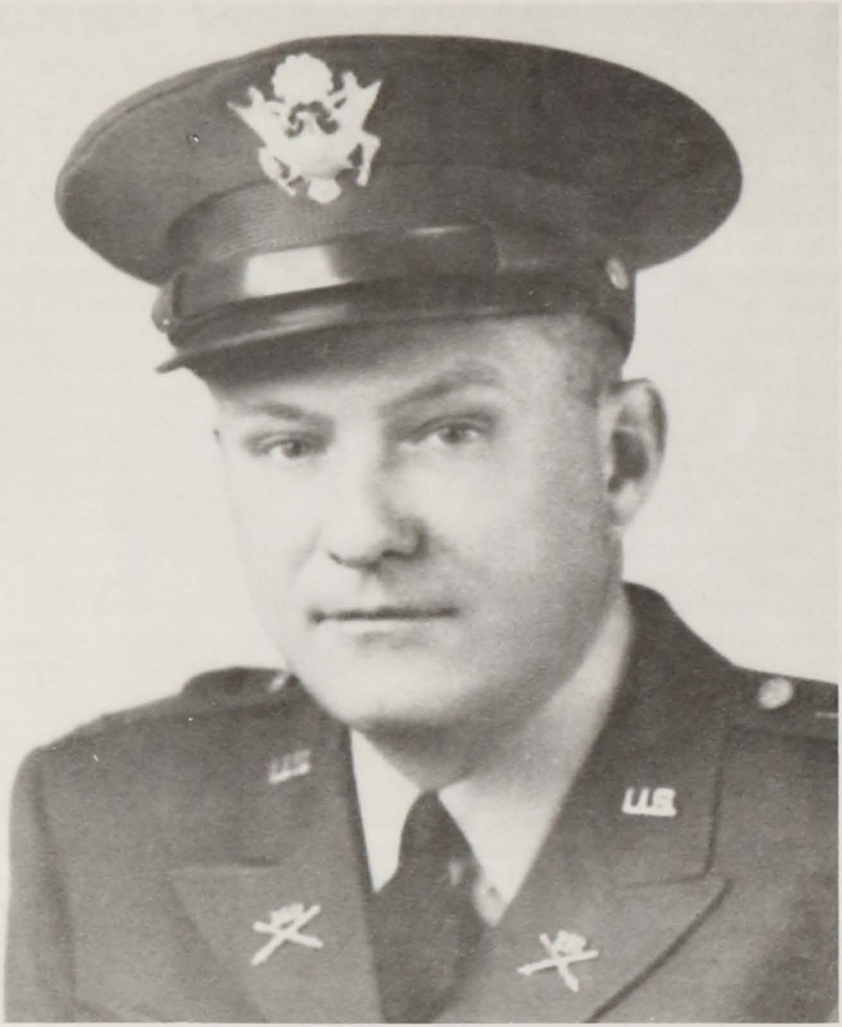
A school near Farmington, Ark. The schoolmaster (back row, 2nd from right) is James W. Thompson who moved to Fayetteville about 1902. He died in Little Rock, 1907, while serving as a state senator from Washington County. The small boy holding the sign on the right side is Colonel Jerome F. Thompson who is the subject of this article. He died in Little Rock in 1980. The sign is dated Dec. 1901. (Photo courtesy Margaret Thompson, Jerome's daughter)

He enlisted in Company "B", 2d Arkansas Infantry, at Fayetteville on May 8, 1914. The 2d Arkansas was the parent of the present-day 142d Field Artillery which has Army National Guard units in eleven northwest Arkansas cities. Washington County units are: 142d F.A. Brigade, Fayetteville; Btry "B", 1st Battalion, 142d, Springdale; Service Battery, 2d Battalion, 142d, Lincoln.

(Note: The WCHS 1967 publication "In Tribute to the Arkansas National Guard; Co. A-Springdale; Co.B-Fayetteville: First Washington County Troops to Serve Overseas, World War I—1917 (50th Anniversary)" edited by W.J. Lemke, contains interesting material on those units, personnel and service. Colonel Thompson wrote a postscript for it.)

National Guard units of that day were poorly equipped. Company "B" had been activated at Fayetteville in 1908 after a previous attempt (1905 ?) apparently failed. Officers often paid rentals from their own pockets for the meeting places, which could scarcely be called "armories". Troubles and revolutions in Mexico were going on at this time. General Francisco "Pancho" Villa revolted against the Carranza regime which had been recognized by President Woodrow Wilson. Villa seized most of northern Mexico. On March 9, 1916, about 1,000 of his men attacked Columbus, New Mexico. They killed American civilians and soldiers and stole property before being driven off by the U.S. cavalry.

President Wilson called 75,000 National Guardsmen to Federal service to



Colonel Jerome F. Thompson, Commanding Officer,
142nd Field Artillery Regiment, Camp Bowie, TX 1942

defend the border against the Mexicans. The Springdale and Fayetteville units were among those called. Jerome Thompson was by then the supply sergeant of Company "B". About 9,000 people gathered at the Fayetteville railway station to see the troops depart, and there were many tearful scenes.

The 2d Arkansas Infantry trained at Camp Deming, New Mexico, doing usual military duties until March 2, 1917. No one was killed or wounded. It is ironic that a 9-foot statue of Pancho Villa en route several years ago from Mexico to Tucson, Arizona, was greeted with enthusiasm and marimba music in El Paso, and was established in a special park in Tucson. The

murderous bandit was assassinated in Mexico in 1923. Americans are a very forgetful people.

World War I was raging in Europe when America entered that war and the 2d Arkansas Infantry was recalled to Federal duty on August 5, 1917. The public was enthusiastic. Jerome Thompson was there when the unit was redesignated as the 142d Field Artillery on September 27, 1917 at Fort Roots (North Little Rock, Arkansas) and was commissioned directly from the ranks as a second lieutenant. He served as a munitions officer for the 64th Field Artillery Brigade, an organization of National Guard units from Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi. His unit, escorted by the battleship Texas, went to France in June 1918 and was prepared to go into action one day before the Armistice. He was discharged in May of 1919 as a first lieutenant of field artillery at Camp Pike, Arkansas (now Camp Robinson) which was built during the war, and he joined the fledgling Army Reserve.

Fayetteville received its first National Guard unit after World War I when Battery "A", 206th Coast Artillery (Searchlight) was organized December 5, 1923. Thompson was a lieutenant. Captain Edward K. Hooper, another 2d Arkansas-142d Field Artillery veteran, commanded. Searchlight action across the Ozark skies soon began. The unit was housed in the basement of the Ozark Theater, a sort of a dungeon. The Fayetteville unit was successful, which led to the activation of Battery "E" (Machine Gun), 206th Coast Artillery there. Thompson organized that unit and was promoted to captain, May 18, 1927. The Fayetteville units were redesignated to their earlier status on September 2, 1931 when they once again became "redlegs" — field artillerymen of the 142d Field Artillery. *(Note: Artillerymen are nicknamed "redlegs" because their uniforms once included red leggings.)*

Captain Thompson had been in the military for 17 years, but had no idea that his most significant duties lay ahead of him. The terrible 1930s with wars and the Great Depression wore on. People who lived through the 1930s should get medals. The 142d Field Artillery organization continued. Another battalion and a regimental headquarters were added in 1936, and the third battalion in 1937, as prospects for peace continued to deteriorate. Thompson had attended the School of Fire, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in 1918. In 1937 he was promoted to major and attended the Field Artillery School there. Later, in, in 1941, he completed the Field Officers Course.

The prospective induction of the 142d Field Artillery resulted in the retirement of some older officers with physical problems. Thompson was promoted to lieutenant colonel in September 1940. The 142d Field Artillery on January 6, 1941 was called up for service, which plunged it into World War II. Thompson was promoted to colonel the day before, and began the most significant service of his career. He commanded the regiment (redesignated in February 1943 as a "group") throughout the long, dreary years of World War II. The unit has an outstanding record and, with the battalions, has seen much combat in World War II and the Korean War, but Thompson is the only officer who has commanded the headquarters (regiment/group/brigade) in combat.

The redlegs of the 142d arrived at Fort Sill, Oklahoma January 19, 1941, almost a year before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The regiment was almost entirely made up of Arkansas men. That winter was very severe. The units were quartered in tents north of the balloon hangar at Sill, an area occupied in 1985 by non-commissioned officer quarters. Training began at once. The regiment participated in Louisiana maneuvers and became proficient. It moved to Camp Bowie (Brownwood), Texas on February 8, 1942. The Army reorganized its artillery structure, and in February 1943 the (by then) two battalions became separate organizations.

142nd Field Artillery Regt., Fort Sill, OK 1941. Col. Jerome F. Thompson, C.O. seated, from left, Warrant Officer Christian P. Jorgenson, Personnel; Capt. John W. Mayo, S-3; Maj. Fount Richardson, Medical; Maj. Russell O. Smith, Executive; Capt. Wm. R. Rogers, Adjutant. All from Fayetteville except Capt. Mayo.

Colonel Thompson led his organization to England in September, 1943. Among his officers were: Lieutenant Colonel Lincoln M. Cummings of Fayetteville, later a major general and a longtime circuit judge of northwest Arkansas; and Major Sherman T. Clinger, then of Rogers, who later became a major general and served as Arkansas Adjutant General during all six administrations of Governor Orval E. Faubus. The battleship Texas, which had been part of the 1918 convoy taking Lieutenant Thompson to France, was in 1943 again a part of the convoy, this time to Britain.

The 142d entered combat in Europe in Normandy on D-day + 8, landing on Utah beach. It helped in the reduction of Cherbourg and was ready for the breakout from the lodgement area when it came. It was near the tremendous bombardment at St. Lo. Colonel Thompson later remembered seeing

American planes, hit by enemy fire, light up like a flash in the sky, and disintegrate.

The VII U.S. Corps, to which the 142d was attached, was almost always the lead corps of the First Army. As the breakout moved along, Colonel Thompson was wounded on August 1, 1944 and had not returned to the unit at the time of the slashing battle at Mortain when the Germans tried to cut through to the Atlantic. His driver, also wounded, went AWOL to get back to the 142d. The drive continued across France, and the 142d crossed the Seine at Melun, southeast of Paris, and turned north into Belgium and onto the German Siegfried Line. It became the first U.S. field artillery group in history to establish itself on German soil, an event which took place on September 18, 1944.

The "Battle of the Bulge" caused the group to move temporarily back into Belgium. When the 1945 spring drive to end the war began, it crossed the Roer River and the Rhine River at Bad Godesberg, near Bonn, turned north toward Paderborn, then drove further until the end of the hostilities, where it was at Delitsch, north of Leipsig, near Torgau and the link-up with the Russians. Young 142d officers were anxious, at first, to return prisoners of war to the Russians, but found the vodka toasts to be somewhat overwhelming, and did not seek the duty further.

Colonel Thompson was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star at Artern, Germany on June 12. He already had a Purple Heart, and later received the French Croix de guerre, with palm. He held service medals for five campaigns.

General Courtney H. Hodges, First Army commander, commended Lieutenant General J. Lawton Collins, CG VII Corps, the "spearhead" corps. Collins praised the corps artillery for its aggressiveness and effectiveness in pushing from Utah beach to the Elbe River, particularly during the critical and deadly days around Aachen when the corps was advancing into German — "Splendid achievements".

Brigadier General Williston B. Palmer, the VII Corps Artillery commander, wrote to Colonel Thompson: "We have been together in a year of tremendous events and wonderful victories, and together we have shared in the making of history. Now companions of the German battlefields begin to scatter and it is time for me to say goodbye.

"The 142d Field Artillery Group has distinguished itself from the Cotentin Peninsula to the Elbe River. You have earned your full share of the tremendous tribute recently paid by our Corps commander to the Corps artillery. I can say with complete truth that my association with this fine group has been a constant pleasure, and that your own fine cooperation and loyalty has made my own work easy."

Colonel Thompson was relieved of his command on June 25, 1945, and was assigned to command a group in Grenoble, France, which had the mission of redeploying soldiers to the United States (and in some cases to the Pacific where the war against Japan went on). He returned to the States in 1946 and became assistant manager of the Veterans Administration Regional office at Little Rock, Arkansas. He was also Veterans Employment

Representative for Arkansas.

He was always active in military and veterans affairs, and was a charter member (1919) of the American Legion, Lynn Shelton Post in Fayetteville (now the Shelton-Tucker Post). He was post commander in 1926, First District Commander in 1933, and was elected commander of the Arkansas Department in 1935.

He was president of the Arkansas Reserve Officers Association, a member of the Disabled American Veterans, and the 35th Division Association (of which President Harry Truman was a member). He was president of the Arkansas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. He was a Methodist. He died in Little Rock, May 5, 1980, where he is buried in Roselawn. Veterans of the 142d attended his funeral to express their admiration and respect.

Dr. David L. Smiley, professor of history at Wake Forest University, was the group S-4 (logistics) sergeant overseas in World War II and at the news of Colonel Thompson's death he wrote: "He was a great commander, and we all appreciated his concern for our safety and welfare; he had the charisma of command with the saving grace of humanity. He was a credit to his country and to his state, and, alas for all of us, his kind grow fewer...We are less than we were, now that he has gone to his last retreat."

(Note: A complete history of the 142d Field Artillery is contained in "The 142d Field Artillery: 1889-1976" by Colonel Jack F. Diggs, 1976, 293 pp. photos. Libraries: WCHs, others. Also for sale. Non-profit.)

Brig. Gen. Williston B. Palmer, Com. Gen. VII Corps. Arty. presenting Legion of Merit and Bronze Star to Col. Thompson at Artern, Germany June 12, 1945.

FAGAN'S ATTACK ON FAYETTEVILLE

by Pat Donat, courtesy of NWA Times

Union Battery photographed in Fayetteville, 1864.

FOREWORD

Last July (1985) while going through a box of old books which had been stored for a number of years, having come from my grandmother's library in the Walker-Knerr-Williams house (FLASHBACK, August 1983), I picked up a red-bound book and read on its spine "History of the Second Colorados" by Williams. The author's last name was hardly an uncommon one; the title sounded like a military history. I wasn't at all interested, but I had determined to check each book carefully and thoroughly, so I opened it.

On the flyleaf was my grandmother's name written in faded ink: "Ida C. (Corbett) Knerr, 1885, Allerton, Iowa". Well, that made the acquisition of the book a hundred years ago, anyway. Facing the title page was a lithographed steel engraving. With the magnifying glass I read: "Max Levy Eng., N.Y." The engraving showed a strong-faced, pleasant woman, her straight hair pulled back from a center part, a patterned and banded scarf and stock tie at the neckline of her plain dress. Underneath her picture were words, lithographed in handwriting: "Yours truly, Ellen Williams, Co. A. 2nd Colorado Cav." I was struck, immediately intrigued. What was this? A ***woman*** *writing a military history? In that day and time? About a cavalry company? And why did my grandmother have this book? Our family has produced its share of citizen soldiers, but I knew my grandmother thought acts of war were irra-*

tional, to say the least. Why would she have this single book about what must be a Civil War military history of some kind?

The mystery was solved on the title page: "Three years and a Half in the Army; or History of the Second Colorados" by Mrs. Ellen Williams, Allerton, Iowa." Aha! They both lived in Allerton! The author, Mrs. Wiliams, and my grandmother, Mrs. Knerr, must have known each other in that small town of Allerton in rural Wayne County of southwestern Iowa. My grandmother was a liberated woman, far ahead of her time, and a feminist before the term was invented. She would have supported any woman's literary efforts in their constricted, narrowly defined social milieu. She would have applauded Mrs. Williams' success in publishing her book.

The book was what it said it was, a history of the Second Colorado Cavalry during the Civil War. (Colorado was a territory then and did not become a state until August 1, 1876.) But Colorado produced this regiment, and others, to fight for the Union of the United States of America. Mostly, Colorado's troops defended their territory from Texans who tried to take it over for the Confederacy. But the Second Cavalry, composed of twelve companies, conducted a number of campaigns and assisted in other engagements. As I read on, I came upon a description of Fayetteville, Arkansas in 1864 during the retreat of Confederate General Sterling Price from Missouri. I hardly dared believe it!

My grandmother almost certainly would have read this book back in 1885 in spite of her distaste for military matters. But she probably did not remember the references to Fayetteville by the time she and her family moved from Iowa to Arkansas in 1910. If she did remember that part of the book, her comments about it simply didn't register in my young, unthinking consciousness. Never, however, did she discard a book, so that Ellen Williams' ***History of the Second Colorado*** *had made the journey to Fayetteville, along with all the Knerrs' other books and household goods in November of 1910.*

By now, I thought that perhaps my find was a piece of undiscovered Civil War history, especially since a line in small print on the title page had said: "Published for the author". That made it seem likely that a relatively small number of books had been printed. So I turned to a journalist-historian who is also a friend, Pat Donat, feature writer for the ***Northwest Arkansas Times*** *in Fayetteville. The article which follows was published in the* ***Times*** *on Sunday, July 18, 1985. Since then I have permitted the University of Arkansas Library to photocopy the book, and will eventually give it to Special Collections in that library for use by historians and researchers.*

Elizabeth (Betty) Bassett Williams

AUTHOR'S NOTE: It is exceedingly rare to find first hand accounts of Civil War battles that have not previously been discovered but Betty Williams has made available a book that describes Fayetteville in late 1864 during the retreat of Confederate General Sterling Price from Missouri. Even more unusual is the fact that the history of the Second Colorado Cavalry is written by a woman who with her two children shared the experiences of her husband a bugler in Company A of the Second Colorado. The book, entitled Three Years and a Half in the Army; or, the History of

the Second Colorado, is written by Ellen Williams and published by Fowler & Wells Co., New York City, in 1885. It contains a full complement of the regiment, listed by companies with a further listing of trades and nationalities represented in the regiment.

The independent companies of Company A and B of the Second Colorado Regiment were mustered in the fall of 1861 in Canon City, Colo. when that state was still a territory. The ranks were composed of hardy miners and they fought in Texas and New Mexico before being ordered to St. Louis, Mo.

Company A reported to Fort Garland in New Mexico in December and Company A was ordered to report to Santa Fe, N.M. The move was made in three wagons with six yoke of oxen to each one. The author travelled with two young sons and the women and children were ordered to stay at Santa Fe while the men went to Fort Union. After this the women and children rejoined the companies at Fort Craig. This assignment, according to Williams, was one of the most disagreeable places in which to stay. "Tarantula, centipedes and tail-toads were frequent bedfellows; the provisions were of the poorest quality, both bread and meat wormy and the water was as thick as porridge."

However, there was one bright spot and the paymaster made his appearance for the first time since enlistment, "which was very nearly a year." The women lived about five miles from the Fort during this assignment.

At the beginning of 1863 the companies were ordered "to march forthwith to the States."

They reached St. Louis and at Benton Barracks were supplied with horses. Here the two companies with two pieces of artillery were ordered to escort a provision train from Fort Scott to Fort Smith.

Christmas of 1863 was spent at Fort Riley and the Second Colorado Cavalry was formed with James H. Ford as colonel. It was composed of 12 companies, with 1,100 men each armed with goverment sabre, a Star's carbine, and a Star's revolver.

Mrs. Williams was not impressed with the weapons. "The Star's carbine (is) an arm capable of throwing a ball with great force and precision when properly adjusted, but of uncertain fire, a very important defect, when the life of a brave man was depending; also Star's revolver, a good pistol, with one serious objection, the revolving apparatus was liable to get out of order after a few discharges. It seemed strange, with such imperfect arms, so few accidents should happen, only one or two being the result therefrom."

The Second Colorado Cavalry was kept busy fighting bushwhackers in Missouri until late September when General Sterling Price invaded the state. They were engaged in several battles and on Oct. 31, 1864, were at Newtonia enroute to Fayetteville in pursuit of Price.

By early November they reached the Pea Ridge Battleground. "On the morning of the third of November, the command again took up the line of march, in spite of the falling rain and muddy road and at about eight o'clock we passed over the battleground of Pea Ridge, the furrowed ground and the scarred and torn trees giving evidence of the fierce struggle between the

Union and the Rebel forces in the year 1861." At ten o'clock it commenced snowing and continued throughout the balance of the day. After traveling 18 miles the army camped for the night.

"At three o'clock on the morning of the fourth, the camp was aroused by the shrill notes of the bugle sounding the assembly and in one hour's time, the command was moving forward in the direction of Fayetteville where a portion of the rebel army, under the notorious Fagan, was laying siege to that post; which was defended by the First Arkansas Infantry regiment, with two small howitzers. The storm had now abated, although it was yet stinging cold, and the command pushed forward as fast as the condition of the roads and the jaded stock would admit of, to relieve the heroic garrison from the attack of five times their number, assisted by two pieces of artillery.

"The thunder of the cannon was distinctly heard, and our troops eagerly pushed forward with the almost certain expectation of having an engagement with the enemy. But Fagan had his scouts out, and being made aware of our approach raised the siege and fled in the direction of Cane Hill, where the main body of Price's army was camped.

"The command reached Fayetteville at 11 o'clock, the rebels having abandoned the siege, three hours' previous. The garrison and the citizens of the town were necessarily frightened at the unexpected appearance of such a large force of the enemy, and were greatly relieved upon witnessing our approach. The siege had lasted some four hours, resulting in the killing of a rebel Lieutenant and two privates; the garrison suffering no loss further than the wounding of one man, and the damaging of a few houses with rebel shot and shell. One conspicuous house, into the cellar of which was congregated fifty or sixty women and children, was completely riddled; five shells have passed directly through it, and one of them exploding in the kitchen shattered the walls in a frightful manner. A solid shot fired at this house passed through the hewed-log walls and striking a mule killed it instantly."

On arriving at the Post, the command immediately went into camp and remained during the day to rest the jaded stock.

It is a little difficult to reconcile the fact that Fayetteville was almost equally divided in sympathies with the North and South with Mrs. Williams' assertion that the citizens were dismayed by the large Confederate force since Dr. W.B. Welch of this area was chief surgeon with Fagan's command.

Colonel M. La Rue Harrison, commander of the Fayetteville post in his official report said that a scout reported 8,000 rebels with artillery marching upon the town from Cane Hill. "I found this report to be very nearly correct. Price detached Fagan with 5,200 men and two pieces of artillery, which force was joined on the march by 1,500 men. They attacked my pickets and commenced bombarding the town with all their boasted chivalry, not giving me the least time to remove families (mostly their own at that) nor demanding a surrender. The bombardment was kept up with one 6 pounder rifle gun and one 12 pounder field howitzer until nearly sunset. Three times the order was given to charge the works, but each time the men on coming within range of my rifles shrank from the assault and fled to a safe position.

At sunset the retreat of the enemy commenced and was continued throughout the night leaving about 600 behind." On the arrival of the Army of the Border, Harrison's command was ordered to join in the pursuit of Price.

Colonel Ford, in his official report takes care of the Fayetteville skirmish with greater dispatch. "On the 4th instant (November) we arrived at Fayetteville, relieving that place from the determined attacks of the rebel General Fagan, commanding division in General Price's army."

Mrs. Williams continues her narrative. "At twelve the next day, we were again in motion, pursuing the route taken by the retreating enemy, through the Ozark Mountains in a southwest direction toward Cane Hill, a little village nearly twenty miles distant from Fayetteville. That night our troops camped at Prairie Grove. Here the men feasted on the abundance of apples that were found in the neighboring orchards, affording a luxury that was altogether unexpected and consequently all the more welcome. These together with plenty of beef, pork and sorghum molasses that was discovered hidden away, afforded a living that was very heartily partaken of and very highly appreciated by the men.

"The ground exhibited abundant evidence of the hardly contested battle fought here in 1862. The prairie, containing some two hundred acres, was entirely surrounded by a grove of small timber, inside of which the Union army was camped and hundreds of tent stakes were still protruding from the ground; grape-shot percussion shells and musket balls were strewn about; trees were scarred and torn and in some instances entirely severed by a passing shot."

The pursuit of Price's army continued and about noon the next day the command reached Cane Hill "and found it had been evacuated by the rebel forces in the greatest haste and alarm — having being informed by their scouts that a Federal force, 30,000 strong, was rapidly approaching."

"On receiving this information the greatest consternation prevailed and although it was late in the evening, orders were issued to march immediately, and disencumbering themselves of everything that could cause them delay they fled precipitately in the direction of the Arkansas River in the hope of reaching and crossing it before being overtaken."

The author claims that the Confederate sick and wounded unable to proceed without the aid of ambulances were left. The rebel army was driven to the Texas line when the pursuit was given up and the Colorado troops returned to their headquarters.

During Fagan's attack on Fayetteville a cannon ball from his battery had damaged the Walker-Stone House on Center Street, but the date given for the attack was Oct. 3, 1864, not Nov. 4 as stated by this author. However, the military records confirm the author's Nov. 4 date.

The conspicuous house she refers to is not known. Both the nearby Ridge House and Reiff House (now Moore's Chapel) were in the same neighborhood and the Ridge House was a log structure and a former basement was discovered during its restoration but certainly was not "completely riddled." Many Civil War vintage miniballs were found during archeological

digs at both the Ridge House and Walker Stone House.

The Rieff dwelling, built in 1857 had served as a commissary for the Confederate Army in 1862 and was held by Union soldiers after the Battle of Fayetteville.

VIEWS OF A YOUNG RESEARCHER

by Bucky Conduff

I am twelve years old and go to Farmington School in Farmington, Ark. I wasn't very interested in my family past and of course knew little of them. My Grandmother took me to Fayetteville Public Library where I found film of censuses, obituaries and to the Washington County Courthouse where I could get copies of actual marriage records. Seeing these things I really begin to wonder who my people were. My Grandmother was doing research on Conduff among other family lines so we decided I would mainly look for Oxford and its connections. The Oxford alone would have kept me looking but I found other good names too, Edmonston (with its various spellings) just to name one.

It was exciting to add still another Grandparent to my list finding marriage, birth, and death dates for them and seeing some new name as a grandmother became an Oxford. First I talked to my parents, Grandparents, and Great-grandparents (that's why it's good to do research young; more of the folk are around to help. I knew birth and marriage dates for my parents Sherry Catherine Oxford (1953) and Arvin Lee Conduff (1949). I ask for marriage and birth dates from my Grandmother Eva Mae Glenn (1933) and Robert Lee Oxford (1929). I have even found a coat of arms for Oxford. At the library I found dates for Elbert David Oxford (1903-) and talked to his widow, my Great-grandmother Opel Eugene Clark (1908-). Both were born in Washington Co., Ark., and married here also. From these sources I found that Perry Baker Oxford b. 1875 was my next grandparent and had married Laura Bell Edmondson b. 1881. She was a daughter of a Washington County land holder and gave a copy made from the family Bible to a Mrs. Shewes who recorded it and I found it at the Geneo. Dept. at the library. It also gave my next grandfather as Isaac Wesley Oxford b. 1849 married to Nancy L. Baker b. 1850 both in Washington Co., Ark. They also married here. This same paper stated that Isaac was the son of Jacob, b. 1801. I found in FLASHBACKS more about Jacob and his wife Rebecca Culwell b. 1823 in Ark. Jacob was born in Tennessee. They were supposed to have had seven sons and two daughters. I found in other FLASHBACKS and at the Historical Society about Jacob's father Abel and hope this is our Jacob. If so Abel Oxford b. 1780 in North Carolina and wife Edreth are my next grandparents and had at least seven boys. Abel's father was Samuel Oxford b. 1730-35. Samuel's wife was Barsheba Barett and had eleven children at least. Samuel's mother was a Browne. I would appreciate correspondence and information and will share mine. This is fun. Try it and you will like it.

Shirley Baldwin, 1117 South Quincy, Tulsa, OK 74120: I would like to hear from anyone who is working on the BOSWELL-COLCLASURE line. John Boswell, born 1833, Newton County, IN, married Lodemae Colclasure in Clay County, IL in 1855. They moved to Washington County, AR and are on the 1860 census. They brought her mother, Margaret Colclasure, and some of Margaret's children with them. Later, after war times, John and Lodemae moved to Barry County, MO where both are buried. Margaret Colclasure died and is buried in Washington County, AR. Her son, Jacob Colclasure, and his wife Lucinda WILLIAMS are also buried in Washington County, AR. I would enjoy exchanging information with anyone working on these lines.

Stark & Mathenia (Mullen)Mhoon were born in No. Carolina and married in eastern Tenn. They located in Washington Co., Ark. in 1836. They were one of the first families who settled on Round Mountain, a few miles east of Fayetteville, where they followed the occupation of farming.

Stark Mhoon was part Cherokee Indian. It is thought he was at least one half but this is not documented. Their children were: James E., Margaret (Fletcher), Sarah Elizabeth (Bledsoe), John Thomas, William Green, Martha T., Wilson R., and Mary Jane (Keele). Mathenia died and Stark married her sister, Sarah in Washington Co., AR 11 May 1847. To this union were born four children: Marquis Lafayette, John, Roena (Jenkins), and Robert G. Sarah died in Washington Co. ca. 1881-82. Stark died in Newton Co., MO May 11, 1888.

Sarah Elizabeth Mhoon married, 10 March 1853 at age 16 to James Bledsoe age 25. James Bledsoe came from Tenn. Nothing more is known about his family. To this union were born: Surfronia (Howard), William Augusta, Margaret Emiline (Williams-Howard), Thomas Hulosus, James Washington, Mary Frances (Ferguson), Sarah Ann (Crow), Arnettie Dee (Curry), Mattie Roenner (Crow), Addie Elizabeth (Maguire) & Emly Hanner.

Sarah Elizabeth died 23 May 1911. James Bledsoe drowned 22 March 1890. Both are buried at Round Mountain Cemetery, Washington Co., AR.

Mary Frances (Molly) Bledsoe born 3 Jan. 1864, married at age 20 to Robert Francis Ferguson age 21 on 7 Feb. 1884, Washington Co., AR.

I am very interested in contacting any descendants of this family. Please write: Thelma Curtis, Route 6 Box 305, Fayetteville, AR 72703.

Mamie Cox Parker, 1412 S. W. 54th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73119 (phone 405-681-2795) writes: These four photos were originally owned by Earl and May Cox of Rieff Chapel community, southwest of Fayetteville. The photos are believed to have been taken between 1905-1918 in the area of Rieff Chapel and Fayetteville. Could be relatives of COX, MARRS, MILLER, MILSAP or other area families. Can you identify anyone?

Jerry V. Collins, Bread Springs School, Box 1117, Gallup, NM 87301 would like to exchange family information on the following family which was in the 1830-1850 censuses of Bedford County, TN and listed in the 1860 and following censuses of Washington County, Arkansas: Martin COLLINS, NC; Charity Collins, KY; Mitchel Collins, TN; Jesse Collins, TN; Sarah Collins, TN; Robert Collins, TN; Seaborn Collins, TN; Eliza Collins, TN; Martin Collins, Jr., TN: William Collins, TN; Jane Collins, TN. Would also like to exchange information on the Andrew J. and Martha J. Collins family. Living with them in Bedford County, TN, according to 1850 census was Elener Collins, age 80. I have several old Collins pictures made during Civil War period in Washington County, AR.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

By Marian C. Ledgerwood

My grandparents were all born in Washington County, Arkansas. My paternal grandparents were born in 1852, one near Durham, the other near West Fork. My maternal grandparents were almost a generation younger than the paternal grandparents—grandfather was born near Harris in 1869 and his wife near Durham in 1872. My parents were born near Durham in the southeastern part of Washington County, my father in 1889 and Mother four years later.

Both parents were skillful storytellers who enjoyed reminiscing about their childhood in Washington County. In later years they delighted in returning to see the old home places and "reliving" some of their experiences. Nearly always my father would say, rather ruefully, "Those were the good old days!" Life was indeed difficult and none of us could wish to return to that way of life, but it was also much simpler, and for that reason we find ourselves casting a wistful eye toward "The good old days".

Mother said her grandparents lived near each other, but never visited or saw each other. Neither ever mentioned the other. Both served in the Civil War, but not on the same side: one was with the South, the other with the North. I have wondered what memories they had. And their children married each other.

My mother, Ella Jones Carter, was born 29 years after the Civil War. Arkansas was a border state during the War Between the States and feeling ran high. There was "bush whacking" when oftentimes neighbor killed neighbor. Once, during my great-grandfather's absence, soldiers came to his house and ordered his wife and two small boys, Jim and John, to leave because they planned to burn the house. She did as she was told, and they burned her home. They were living on White River, near Durham, and she walked and carried the small boys to the home of her mother near Delaney. After the war, Mother's grandfather did not seem to hold grudges about such offenses, but his wife did. She refused to have anything more to do with people who had wronged her. That grandfather did have a few wartime stories to tell. One such was about "Ol' Captain Toney" who fired the cannon at the Battle of Prairie Grove until he lost his hearing.

Mother said she had been told that when the Civil War was over there was no more devastated part of the south than was northwest Arkansas. Being so near the Mason and Dixon line, the area was overrun with people who

wanted to exploit from both sides. That was the kind of time her parents grew up in, and she was not too far removed. She appreciated the pioneer life her ancestors lived and was near enough to those days to realize what it was like. She said:

My parents married on February 22, 1891 when he was 21 years old and she was eighteen. Within the first year of their marriage, Dad took his bride to Texas, near McKinney. They visited in the home of her cousin, Nancy Jane Shumate Williams, probably with the intention of settling there. Their visit was remembered by Oscar Williams who was the son of Nancy Jane Williams. Since his wife was homesick and unhappy, Dad took her back to Arkansas.

Dad was always trying to better conditions, and about 1898 he decided to move to Oklahoma (Indian Territory). He wanted good pasture land and land with NO ROCKS—he hated plowing among rocks. I don't remember how the plans were worked out, but the upshot of it was that Dad stored most of the furniture with his people who had a big house. The things they needed most were loaded in two covered wagons, called "prairie schooners", Dad driving one wagon and Keat (his youngest brother) driving the other. There were no trains, yet, in Indian Territory and wagons were the only transportation. But there was good, rock-free land and some thought it a place of opportunity. Keat went along to help us get there, then he would drive his wagon back home. He was a 17-year-old boy, adored by my sister Esther and me. We would drive all day long, Keat and his wagon trailing Dad and his wagon, where we kids and mother rode. The trip seemed endless, but really was not so long.

Mother had relatives, and Dad had friends who were living along the route we took, and we visited them. Finally, we got as far as Claremore, where we stayed for a few weeks. Dad wanted to locate near Vinita. About that time, Mother discovered that another baby was coming to live with us, and poor Dad turned right around and went back to the rocks and home where families were.

In the spring of 1899, Dad and Granny Shumate took Esther and me out to Farmington to see my Great-granny Sarah Ball Shumate. Also, he wanted us kids to see the convicts building the railroad into Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). We saw the large camp where the prisoners lived as they worked, always under guard. I can still see the large kettles of food cooking.

When I was very small, we moved to a place several miles from Durham, on the Middle Fork river. I remember that Mother and Dad had a party for some of the young people. I think Aunt Annie and Uncle Ed were among the guests. Dad and all his people loved music and singing. The songs he sang—or whistled, mostly—were the folk songs popular in his day. Another early memory is of riding behind him on old Pet, his horse, and listening to him whistle "Dixie". Other songs he sang were "Listen to the Mocking Bird", "Susanna Don't you Cry", "Hot Time in the Old Town", "Sidewalks of New York", "After the Ball", "Shortnin' Bread", "Get Along Home Cindy", "Crawdad

Hole", "Danced With a Girl With a Hole in Her Stockin'", and many others. I remember "I wish I were an apple, a 'hangin' on a tree, and every time my true love passed, she'd take a bite of me." And "The Poor Married Man"—"He goes to bed with his poor tired head and lies on the edge of the rail. The colic and croup make him jump up and whoop, Like a dog with a can to his tail."

My grandfather Jones had a fiddle which he carried through the Civil War with him, and could play it in the way fiddles were played in that day. The story goes that he won it in a game of dice.

When my mother was a young girl, two of her father's good horses were stolen. He belonged to the anti-horse thief association (called Knights of the Horse). He quickly organized a group of friends, among them Dr. G.W. Carter, and they trailed the men up into Missouri, where they recovered the horses. I do not know what happened to the thieves. There were no eating or sleeping places along the way, so they bought their food at a general mercantile store. Among the things they bought was a tall, heavy glass of jelly, and he kept the glass as a memento of the trip. That glass is in our family possession now. *Everything* was sold at the general mercantile store—any old-timer would never call it a grocery store. It is getting about that way again, isn't it?

My maternal grandfather had grown up on White River. People who lived south of them would stop on their way to Fayetteville to shop for their supplies. It was seldom they ate a noonday meal without any guests; many times guests would spend the night. They were welcome, for they brought news of the other places where old friends and relatives lived.

(Note by MCL: When she was growing up, Ella's parents didn't attend church, but sent their children. Ella joined the Christian Church at Sulphur City in 1912, and was baptized in the Middle Fork River near Sulphur City. Esther, her sister, was baptized at the same time. Their mother, Edith Shumate Jones, joined the same church after Ella and Esther joined, and Ella saw her mother's baptism, which was held in a little branch of the Middle Fork River. W.S. Lockhart was the minister at both of these occasions.)

To continue with Ella's memories:

I suppose we thought our parents, like Topsy, "just grew." It seemed never to have occurred to us to inquire about any education they might have had until after they were gone. Goodspeed, in the history of Washington County, mentions that Fayetteville had an influence on the surrounding country, even before the University was there. Education in those days (mid 1860's) was for the few. Money was scarce for textbooks, especially before our time, so a little had to go a long way. The old Blue Back Speller was the main textbook, just after the Civil War. It was published by Noah Webster and was a sort of miniature dictionary, plus. I say "plus" because it started with words of one syllable and finished with words of several syllables, with in between a little bit of everything, including some of Aesop's Fables, etc.

Von's father gave each of his children a Blue Back Speller and jokingly called it his college education. We are sure most of his schooling was learned in subscription schools. I don't know what other text books they used, but that they did use Milne's arithmetic, also a geography. These I heard my mother mention. Later on in her day, they used McGuffey's readers, which must have been superior because we sometimes see them mentioned now.

My grandfather Shumate had a school house built on his land. It was a small building near the Shumate Cemetery, to be used both as a chapel and for his own and other neighbor children to attend subscription school. He realized that the public school year was not long enough, and young children could not walk so far. It was where the little cemetery chapel now stands. Young men, "soldiers of fortune" you might call them, who had gone to eastern colleges and universities, would make their way across the country on their way west seeking adventure. and one way they paid their expenses was to stop along the way and teach a subscription school. My grandfather always let the teacher live with him and Granny and no doubt the news he gathered from the outside world was more than enough payment. Because they were educated people, they taught more than was contained in the Blue Back Speller, and some of the older girls, especially, learned to recite well, such things as "Lord Ullen's Daughter", "The Burial of Sir John Moore", and many others, as well as to sing English ballads. Mother entertained us when we were small, "reading" to us—reciting poems, etc. she had been taught.

My father, also, had memories of subscription schools, in his time, and told us "About subscription schools—at the time we were children, *anyone* could teach a subscription school, if he or she could get enough subscribers to live on, usually $1.00 per month. One time a Miss Mary Key came to Durham and taught. She only had about eight scholars, mostly Carter kids, and we boarded her free, as Dad wanted the school for his kids. She was a good teacher, too, from Fayetteville and had attended Arkansas University. We later lived near her when we went into Fayetteville for school. At that time, the tax-paid school was three or four—sometimes five or six—months out of the year. And after we began school in Fayetteville, the Fayetteville schools were only eight months. Of course, at the University, it was nine months."

Ella had other memories of her parents' and grandparents' education:

I know of my own knowledge that both my grandfathers could read. One grandfather and grandmother could also write. I do remember hearing that the other grandfather taught himself to read, and if he was self-taught he did a right good job of it. I doubt the story. I remember that he took "The St. Louis Republic", a twice-a-week newspaper, from which he kept up with the stock markets (the price of hogs, cattle, corn, etc.) I remember well the newspaper stories about the Russo-Japanese War. He would come home with the mail and while Granny and I worked in the kitchen, he would read about the battles and the suffering in the snow. They both had memories of war, and how the

people suffered. That was in 1904. As I remember, he could not read script. I know Dad and Mother would often go to visit them on Sunday and they would give her letters to read and tell her how to answer them.

(Dad explained why lots of people could read but not write and why only a few could read script: "Even after I began school there at Durham, pencil and paper were very rare. Blackboards with chalk, and a slate and slate pencil were a must for each kid. We even passed our slate to Teacher for grading. So you can see why handwriting was neglected. But tablets and pencils soon took over, and at Fayetteville in 6th grade, when I was about 14, we began to use pen and ink for special work such as themes, etc.)

I first went to school at the old Cross Roads school house when I was about five years old. They built the new Cross Roads school house, but I only attended there about a year before we moved. Anna Robbins (later Uncle Laud Carter's wife) was my teacher. We were then living in the house my dad built on Grandpa Jones' place.

(Note from MCL: The old Cross Roads school was, in the 1890s, located about two miles southeast of McCord Cemetery. My parents marked it on a map and more than 20 years ago they took me by to show me the site. The road was almost impassable at the time. It was moved near the turn of the century to a site about two miles west of the earlier site. Both schools are long since gone.)

When I was a little girl and going to school at Cross Roads school, the community decided to build a new school house. So the citizens set about raising special funds to help buy needed extras. One of those affairs was a box supper. My mother was a good cook and could make things pretty. So for the box supper she made a beautiful box for me to take and filled it with good eats, enough for two. She fed me and Esther some of everything and told us NOT to eat with whoever bought my box, explaining that he probably would have his girl with him. Sure enough, my box brought a good price from a fellow named Will Stockburger, and he had his girl with him. They were there from West Fork.

My father was Von Carter, the son of Dr. G.W. Carter, a well-known country doctor and druggist. Dr. Carter's Bible has an entry stating that on June 15, 1901, four of his sons professed religion and on June 22 they were baptized in the White River, at Durham, by the Baptist church. Von was 12 years old at the time, and he remembered his father as being very religious. He remembered, too, that whenever a preacher would come through to hold a meeting, they nearly always stayed at his house. He said, "The old preacher that came there and preached when we kids were baptized—I don't reckon anybody paid him a dime. They weren't preaching for money. Everybody was glad to have him...I thought he was pretty old then, but I don't guess he was over 55. He had a beard—old Brother Johnson Crawford."

One of Dad's most vivid memories was about a tornado:

We had a two-story house and it was in November. That tornado hit

there and just tore the house all to pieces. Joe, my older half-brother, was asleep upstairs. it blew him plum down to where the old stores were down there, before he hit the ground and cut his head badly. Witt (Witt Carter was later Washington County judge) was about five and he never did wake up. We had a trundle bed—a bed with little bitty short legs which slipped back under the tall bed—which we pulled out at night for kids. He and my sister were sleeping on that. Mother saw the big old stove rolling right across the bed, and Witt was still on it. She said flames were licking out of that old stove, just flying everywhere, but it didn't catch anything afire. It didn't stop long enough. She just screamed; thought sure it was going to kill that kid. He didn't even wake up. I don't remember the tornado, but I do remember how excited I was the next morning, standing around there, and the house gone, looking around for furniture and things. I was three years and two months old. It tore up two little stores downtown, one of them Dad's drug store. Tore it all to pieces. It sure piled those drugs up! It set the other old store right up on its front end, just like raising the end of a box up. The tornado carried a school book to our house. It was a third reader, not the kind we used around there. It has somebody's name in it, and a clipping out of a newspaper. (Note by MCL. That book is now is my possession. Inside the cover is the name "Chadwick", then below that "Christian Co., Mo. On the page opposite the front cover, Von has written "This book was left at Durham, Ark. by the cyclone that blew away the town in 1892, Nov. 16th.")

Dad did rebuild, but he was so afraid of tornadoes that he built a tunnel down below the barn to come out. He had big old 2 by 10 timbers to wall it up and roof it over, and put dirt over so they could go down through that tunnel and out. Later he sold the house where the tornado had been to Sam Winkler, and built another house up the road. Later on several of us boys were there at Durham playing ball, and Sam Winkler came down to play ball with us kids as his wife had gone off somewhere. Someone looked up and saw the house afire, so we all ran up there and got to drawing water as fast as we could. Sam would run up the steps—the fire was upstairs—and throw a bucket of water on the fire. Finally he came down and said, "It's a-gaining headway and can't do a thing with it." So then we got busy carrying out the furniture until it got so far along we had to quit. We saved a whole lot of the furniture, but the house burnt up. Later John White bought the house and rebuilt it.

I played ball on the Durham team, and Sherman Lollar, Sr. played on either Wesley or Thorny. In that day, we had *some* competition among the country teams. Lollar came to Durham after we left. Later, his son Sherman Lollar, a friend of Carl's and distantly related to him, played on one of the major league baseball teams.

When Ben Pool had the Durham store, it was against the Arkansas law to give or sell cigarette papers to boys under 21. The factory fur-

nished a pack of papers "to roll your own". So we boys would buy a sack of tobacco, and Ben would put the papers on the counter and say, "It is agin the law to sell or give you these, so let 'em alone", then walk away. Ha! Guess what.

If parents wanted their children to have an education beyond that offered in the rural community, it was necessary to send the children to Fayetteville where they could board with friends or relatives, or for one of the parents to move into town during the school year. Ella Jones went to school in Fayetteville one year, the third grade, and lived with her grandmother Jones. When she was 13 or 14 she went to Fayetteville to preparatory School in the high school. She lived and boarded at the home of Miss Edith Black and her mother until in 1910 Miss Edith married Tom Phillips and they moved to Ada, Oklahoma. One of her high school teachers was Miss Mary Droke, daughter of a professor at A.U. Mother and Dad drove to Fayetteville in 1969 as they read that the Fayetteville high school had burned. It was then that Mother told of being the very first student in that building on the day it opened. Their clock at home was fast and she got to school about an hour early.

Dad attended school at Durham until the fall of 1904 when his mother moved into Fayetteville with the children so they could attend high school and college. They lived in a rented home in town and Dr. Carter came to town to visit them whenever he could. In the fall of 1906, Von entered the Arkansas University Preparatory School where he took 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades in two years. As he said, "Sure took hard work, too! Most of us took military training. I liked that and took 2nd prize on year in a contest."

In FLASHBACK for August 1969, is an article about the burning of the old Fayetteville high school building, but this article does not state when the original building was completed and opened. The article does tell of former students who came to see the ruins, to shed a few tears and reminisce, after the fire on Friday June 13, 1969. But the writer of the article didn't know about the red-headed teenager who had the dubious distinction of being the first student in the building, and was among those who returned to mourn the school's destruction, sixty years later.

Correction: Hugh Shelton, May issue, from Susan McRae; "The only mistake that I could find was at the very end of the article. You said that Thayer Ewing Shelton was my *grandfather*, but he was my father. It must have been a typo, as I had said to you, 'These stories are both about Hugh Kingston Shelton, who came to Fayetteville in 1878 and lived in this area until 1953. He was the father of Thayer Ewing Shelton and Mrs. Lytton Reagan, my *grandfather* and the grandfather of several of your other members.'"

Public school at Durham, November 18, 1898. Professor A.I. Moore was the teacher. Students were: Front row, left to right: Rebecca Ratliff, Floy Jones, Lillie Masters, Ora Lasley, Cora Gobel, Stella Largent, Elsie Masters, Elsie Baswell, Alta Watts, Von Carter, Augie Clark, Ral Carter, Bennie Shumate, Clyde Bassett, Ambrose Clark, Noel Lewis, Manuel Watts, Orland Dees, Jim Bassett, Edgar Foster. Second row, left to right: Mary Clark, Lela Jones, Nama Carter, Effie Masters, Stella Lewis, Lydia Ballard,

Eva Williford, Jane Lewis, Lon Clark, Kenneth Clark, Than Watts, Witt Carter, Mark Shumate, Clint Foster, Elbert Foster, Walter Pool, Dessie Shumate, Walker Lewis. Third row, left to right: Lillie Lasley, Frankie Hobbs, Grace Bassett, Rose Masters, Lummie Lewis, Della Largent, Mattie Ratliff, Nora Clark, Pearl Springston, Prof. A.I. Moore, George Ballard, Will Springston, Ben Ballard, Laud Carter, Timber Williford, Eb Clark, Dilford Carter, Walter Dees.

THE FAYETTEVILLE ANGELS

by Heather Siroonian

The first game of professional baseball ever played in Fayetteville was on May 8, 1934. The opener introduced the team of Siloam Springs beating the Educators 9 to 7 in twelve innings. Who were the Educators? the hometown team of Fayetteville.

When the Arkansas State League was organized in the spring of 1934, Fred Haun and Cliff Shaw became owners of the Fayetteville franchise. Fourteen players were allowed to play on each club in the Arkansas-Missouri league. The players' salaries ranged from $25.00 to $40.00 a month.

The Fayetteville team, christened the "Educators," didn't begin on a very positive note. The nickname was a tribute to our state university, but it was a terrible handicap to the ball club. So the next year the Educators became known as the "Bears." The team did not fare well with this name either.

At the beginning of the 1937 season the team changed its name for the third time quite by accident. The Bears' uniforms of the preceding season were completely worn out. It was necessary for Bill Cain, the president of the Fayetteville Club, to find replacements. Financially it was impossible to buy new uniforms.

The Ponca City Club of the Western Association had just bought new uniforms. The team was willing to give its old uniforms to the Bears.

When the uniforms arrived in Fayetteville, players and fans gathered at Laner Bros. Shoe Shop, which was located on the square. When the boxes were opened, an unwelcome discovery was made. Lettered in script on the 100% wool baseball shirts was the name "Angels." This was the nickname of the team for whom the shirts had been originally tailored.

President Cain immediately called a meeting of the Board of Directors. They decided it would be cheaper to adopt a new name, "Angels," than to pay for having the lettering changed. In truth that is how the local team became the "Angels" in 1937.

Uniforms weren't the only piece of equipment that was scarce. Baseballs cost the team 80 cents each, which was expensive in 1937. On at least two occasions, the ball games came to abrupt halts when the supply of balls was exhausted.

Fayetteville played its games at the county fair grounds grandstand. The diamond was laid out in front of the stand. The diamond itself had a dirt infield which was hard as concrete during a dry spell and ankle-deep in mud when it rained. The club just didn't have the money to maintain a grass field.

The team did introduce two innovations in the area that made games more enjoyable for the fans. The home games during the 1935 season were broadcast over radio station KUOA, then located in Fayetteville. Also, in June, 1937, the first floodlit game was played in the city. The tall poles for the lights were brought from southern Arkansas and the Lions Club furnished 100,000 watts in light. After the Arkansas-Missouri league folded,

the lights were moved to Harmon Field, where they furnished lights for the high school football games for the next ten years.

The year 1939 was to become very special for the "Angels." They were to become the championship team. Frank Oceak, the manager, was the man to put it all together for the winners.

Another champion emerged during the "Angels" era, Sherman Lollar. He was the Angels' batboy from 1936 to 1939. He wore a uniform in 1936 that was patched together with adhesive tape. In 1938 the fans gave the team an "Appreciation Night." On this occasion Sherman Lollar received a $5.00 bill. At the close of the 1939 championship season, Batboy Lollar was given a 50-cent necktie.

This batboy, by the way, later became a catcher for the New York Yankees, a homerun slugger with the St. Louis Browns, and a catcher for the Chicago White Sox.

Another accomplishment of the league was the difficult scheduling. In this league five clubs played a full schedule and each team played every day. Jim Bohard said it was impossible to make a schedule for five clubs, but Bob Henery and Bernal Seamster sat in the back room of Henry Hardware Company in Siloam Springs and proved him wrong. A five-club schedule in which every club played each day was completed. This was possible because of the short distances between towns in the league.

FINAL LEAGUE STANDINGS 1934-1940

	Wins	Losses	
1934	13	17	Last in the league.
1935	24	31	Next to last in the league.
1936	27	33	Third from the bottom.
1937	70	56	Second in the league.
1938	66	53	Third in the league.
1939			League Champions
1940			Last in the league.

The Arkansas-Missouri League was blessed with good presidents, directors, and professional men in the area. One man, Bob Henry, my great-grandfather, was such a man. He tried to keep a sport he loved alive in the area, because he knew that it brought enjoyment to hundreds. He gave his time, money, and understanding for several years before assuming the role of president in 1939 and 1940.

Even though the league had good league presidents, managers, players, and fans, it was not to last. The nation's economy was struggling out of a depression. The major leagues could not help support all the farm teams in minor leagues.

So on July 1, 1940, the Arkansas-Missouri League died. "It was like putting a savory steak in front of a man and then yanking it away just as he was about to enjoy it," said H.L. Howe, advertising manager of the *Carthage Evening Press*.

The league produced many players who later made their mark in the ma-

jors and furnished entertainment for thousands of baseball fans in the Ozarks.

So it was the end of an era. The Arkansas-Missouri League and the Fayetteville Angels are just fond memories found in yellowing newspaper clippings or tucked away in the minds of those remaining few who remember.

1939 CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

Kenneth Grosse, First Base	Clarence Collins, Utility
Paul Young, Left Field	Ray Parrot, Outfield
Joe Szuch, Right Field	Clay Odneal, Pitcher
Rudy Briner, Catcher	Mike Barbola, Pitcher
Frank Oceak, Second Base	George Bender, Pitcher
Norm Litzinger, Center Field	Clif Stebe, Pitcher
Ed Checkley, Shortstop	Harold Rolleg, Pitcher
Harry Hatch, Third Base	Roy Smith, Pitcher

Doug Garner, Pitcher

A LETTER HIDDEN FOR SIXTY YEARS

Courtesy Of Ann Moore Teague

Ann Moore, a student in the Arkansas History class of the University Training School brought the following letter and obituary to the Society. She said that she obtained them from an old tin box which had been kept in the attic by her great aunt since they had been hidden there about sixty years ago by the great grandmother when all papers were ordered to be burned because of a typhoid epidemic.

Letter from M. (Matilda) C. Moore to her son George on June 23, 18??.

Dear george you will think me along time getting ready to write I was writing last sunday and dad took sick he is better now his other side pains and cut his breath off like it did at first it was eating cherries and other fruit and using sweet milk he is just as bad as ever about taking anything but I hope he will get well after a while tom has been gone most of the time since you left Mr Graves brought his wife and two little childern down but did not stay but a day or two the oats in the neighborhood are all most lost with the _____ _____ ours two toms wheat is good ours not much it is very dry no rain since you first left we cannot make bread without rain soon our corn is small for the season we dont hear much war news the stage is stopt but feel uneasy about you all the time I am afraid you will be carried to Misouri but hope not I want you to do the best you can try to please your officers it is their duty to keep order I hope you have a good mess but i don't like some of the last try to make friends of everyone I dont wish you to want for any thing but be particular about sickness what you eat keep your self clean and comfortatable if you want anything let me know there is some passing every day if you get your washing done you will soon need money

you aunt mancy found her son under guard I dont expect to hear that of you keep out of bad company and dont be led off by others we hear tug is getting home sick but it is too soon for that be sure if you get sick to let Dr Bell know just how you are sick you may not be in any battle but you must ask you heavenly fathers guide and protection all the time one of your letters was not dat Tom has got a thrasher and will go to thrashing some this week Slucky had some examination not much he follows hellen as close as ever some think they will be maried I dont know how it is dont tell what I write to the boys I dont like to be the auther of anything aunt eliza and alice were up yesterday evening all well alice is going to weaving monday Tom is going out to the camp as soon as he can but I dont know how soon he has a great deal to do I want to send you some pickles write and tell me what you want from home bus cant ride yet can lie down to sleep but still he mends slow it is dresling a little to day

Your Mother M. C. Moore

AN HONORED CITIZEN FALLEN

Died at dusk, March 8th, 1872, SAMUEL MOORE, in the 89th year of his age.

It is with feelings of deep regret that we chronicle the death of this aged, honorable and true man. He was born near Martinsburg, Va., July 5th, 1783, and after spending a number of years in Tennessee, he removed to Northern Arkansas, and from thence to Cherokee county, Texas in 1864, where he has since resided. He served in the war of 1812 as a Lieutenant, and was a warm personal friend and intimate acquaintance of General Jackson, in whose family he lived for some time, and for whose memory he cherished the most ardent devotion up to his last hour. In 1822 he came to Texas with an exploring expedition, and passed into Mexico, and for a time engaged in mining, but soon returned to Tennessee, in which State he reared a large family of childern, but few of whom survived him.

The life of Samuel Moore has been checkered by shade and sunshine from his cradle to his grave, and there are few men whose lives have been marked with a greater share of the vicissitudes of fortune than his has been. Yet amid all his trials, and in the face of every emergency, his conduct was interwoven by an unswerving devotion to principle, which was so thoroughly interwoven into his very being as to be a part of his life, inseperable from it. Honest, fearless and manly in his every position in life, he was loved by the true wherever he went, and appreciated by all, for the many noble qualities that adorned his heart.

He was the maternal grandfather of Mr. Frank Templeton, one of the editors of the Advertiser, to whom this office extends its sympathy, for we know that his time, and may be said to have died by reason of his great age, for he passed away quietly in his sleep without struggle, as on

> "Who wraps the drapery of his couch about him
> and lays down to pleasant dreams."

BIOGRAPHY FROM NEWS CLIPPINGS

Edited by Jean Newhouse

From a collection of fragile and yellowed newspaper clippings we can follow the life and accomplishments of members of one family. The following excerpts from such a history were provided by Helen Bocquin and Mary Lucille Yoe, descendants of this family. Unfortunately, most of the clippings are undated and the newspapers from which they were taken are unidentified. Even so, they present a revealing picture of their times, as well as denoting the triumphs and tragedies.

From a Fayetteville paper: (ca 1921)

JAMES LEWIS PASSES AWAY: FUNERAL OCT. 11

James W. Lewis, aged 80 years, died Sunday night at 9 o'clock at the family home, 514 North Willow Street, after an illness of several months.

Mr. Lewis, who had lived in the county for thirty-five years and in Fayetteville for the past five years, came here from Springdale. He was the father of Art Lewis, president of the First National Bank of this place and of Burt, Will, Ralph and Paul Lewis of Lewis Brothers Hardware Company. Besides his wife and five sons, he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. John Mr. Meyers of Springdale.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from Central Methodist Church, South, with burial in Bluff Cemetery, Springdale, at 4 o'clock. Pall bearers will be Charles Dodson of Springdale, Ernest Dowell, Carl Key, J.C. White, John P. Smith and H.L. Pearson, all of this place.

From a Springdale paper:

After an illness covering a period of several weeks, J.W. Lewis passed away Sunday night at his home in Fayetteville. Funeral services were held at Central Methodist Church, Fayetteville, Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock, conducted by the pastor Rev. J.A. Womack, assisted by Rev. B.L. Ayers, pastor Baptist church. The remains were brought to Springdale and interment made in Bluff Cemetery, services at the cemetery being conducted by Rev. Womack...

The banks of Fayetteville closed at noon Tuesday for the remainder of the day, out of respect of A.T. Lewis, president of the First National Bank and eldest son of the deceased. Many Fayetteville friends accompanied the remains to Springdale and the floral offerings were numerous.

James W. Lewis was born in Murfreesboro, Tenn., February 23, 1841, and with his widowed mother, brothers and sisters removed to Springfield,

Mo. in 1853, the deceased being the last surviving member of the family. November 24, 1868, deceased was united in marriage to Jennie Thompson, who, together with five sons, and one daughter, survive. The sons are A.T., Bert S., Ralph and Paul of Fayetteville, and Will, residing southwest of Springdale. Mrs. May Myers, wife of J.H. Myers of Springdale, is the surviving daughter, two daughters having died a number of years ago.

The family resided at Springfield, Mo., until 1883, when they came to Washington County, locating near Mt. Comfort. After a residence of about two years in that locality they came to Springdale, and it was here the children were reared, all of whom are now married except Paul, the youngest. A few years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis moved to Fayetteville to be near their sons, all of whom, except Will, are prominent in business affairs of that town.

In his younger days Mr. Lewis was a wagon and carriage maker, being formerly connected with the Springfield Wagon Company. After coming to Springdale he engaged in the same occupation for a number of years, his shop being located where the Odd Fellow Block now stands. Mr. Lewis was prominent in the affairs of Springdale in other days, having served the town as mayor, alderman, school director, etc., and had long been a member of the M.E. church, South. He was a good citizen in all that the term applies (sic), and left to his children the priceless heritage of an untarnished name.

From an undated, unidentified newspaper:

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES W. LEWIS

To be respected by all, loved by many and to live in the memory of friends without number, which is the tribute we pay to "Uncle Jim".

He was kind in manner, gentle in word and deed and ever ready to help others over the rugged places of life.

He was spending the "evining of life" among all his loved ones and not only they will miss him, but those who knew him as a good neighbor and a loyal friend.

Death has broken the tie, but it cannot chill the memory of his useful life.

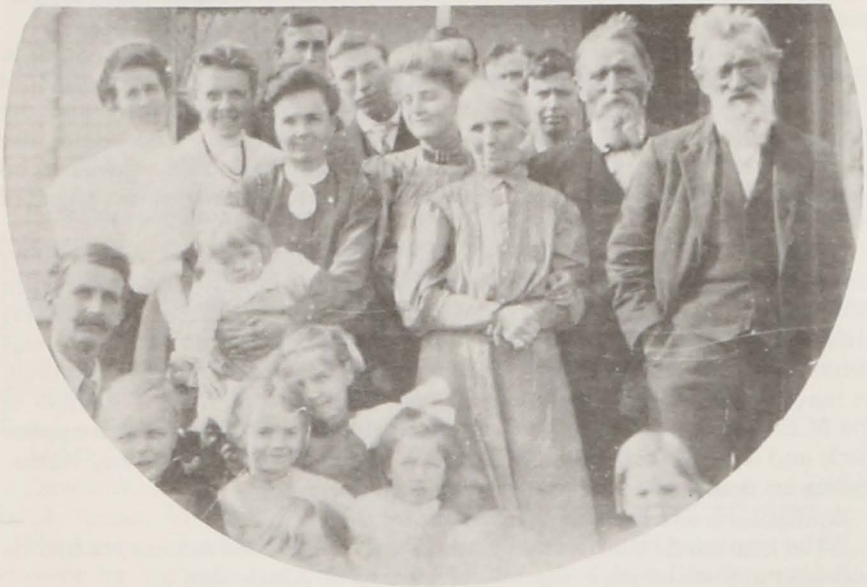
And so he has reached the journey's end
Where time and eternity meet and blend.
The book is closed, the prayers are said
And he is a part of the countless dead.
Thrice happy then be you who can say,
"I live because He has passed this way."

L.R.L.

In earlier, happier days, about 1907, Mr. and Mrs. James Lewis celebrated events, as chronicled in an unidentified newspaper:

Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Lewis celebrated the thirty-ninth anniversary of their marriage Sunday by inviting all their children and their families and a few friends in to take dinner with them. All their children were present, Art, Will and Ralph of Fayetteville, Bert, Paul and Mrs. J.H. Myers, who reside in Springdale, all the children being married except Paul. Uncle Am Lewis, a brother of J.W. Lewis, was also present. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis were married at Springfield, Mo., thirty-nine years ago, and Mr. Lewis had prepared and

The Lewis family taken in front of the home on Shiloh Street in Springdale, about 1908. On far right, standing is Ambrose Mahlon Lewis, next to him James Washington Lewis, in front of J.W. is Jane Thompson Lewis, just behind her Ova Berry Lewis and just behind her is Ralph Lewis. Small girl in front with large hair bow is Helen Lewis Bocquin.



furnished a home for them. They were married in the forenoon and went immediately to their home where Mrs. Lewis prepared dinner, and Uncle Am, who lived on a farm near Springfield, came and ate with them their first dinner. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis received numerous nice and useful gifts on their 39th anniversary and the occasion was one that will long be remembered by all present.

From another newspaper,

presumably in Fayetteville, the first paragraph of which is missing:

(Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Lewis observed their golden wedding anniversary) yesterday, the event being observed by a family reunion and golden wedding dinner given at high noon at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Lewis, on Washington Avenue and attended by thirty-three immediate relatives, those present including five sons, four daughters-in-law, a daughter and son-in-law and seventeen grandchildren as well as other connections.

A golden yellow color scheme was carried out in the wedding dinner table decorations, mammoth yellow chrysanthemums giving the keynote, and a golden-yellow wedding cake, cut by the bride, being also a feature of the decorative scheme.

Three occurrences of unusual interest marked the dinner service, these being the exhibition by Mr. Lewis of the silver watch he carried over half a century ago when he was "courting" his bride, the display of a handsome

piece of silverware presented to the couple by their children on their 25th wedding anniversary, and the use on the dining table of a piece of the "house-keeping" china which appeared on the table of the first meal the young couple served in their own home in Springfield, Mo. 50 years ago.

Gifts of gold from children and grandchildren were showered upon the bride and groom immediately following dinner and the couple remained the center of a loving and admiring family circle throughout the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are among Fayetteville's most worthy people and a large number of friends will join in offering congratulations. The bride is still "winsome" and made a most attractive guest of honor. Of the family present in showering loving attention on the couple were Mr. and Mrs. Art Lewis and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Lewis and family, Mr. and Mrs. Will Lewis and family,Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lewis and family, Mr. Paul Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. John Myers of Springdale. Of the eighteen grandchildren, all were prsent except one, Miss Claire Lewis, now at Cottey College, and of the "in-laws", all were present except a grandson-in-law, Vance Sailor, now in the United States service overseas. Mrs. T.W. Berry, mother of Mrs. Ralph Lewis, was also a member of the family party.

The Berry family of Hindsville: far left Hattie, T.W. Berry Holding baby Essie, Julia, Mrs. Berry holding baby Albert, Hugh, Ova seated on stool

Mrs. John (May Lewis) Myers, the surviving daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Washington Lewis, moved to Fayetteville in 1946, and on this occasion was presented a set of clippings collected by her friend Dora J. Martin, accompanied by a letter:

"May these clippings rekindle in your mind the joys which were yours in the good old town of Springdale. Some will cause smiles and joy, others bring tears and sadness. Such is life. In 1886 your dear family moved to Springdale, the following year, December the first 1887, we moved to Springdale where, May, you and I have lived all these years. You cannot blame me for being saddened when you called me over the telephone October 12, 1946 saying you soon would be moving to Fayetteville as you had bought a house there. The consolation I get from it (is) you will be with your very own people—here, your friends. We shall miss you. At that we have something to be thankful for: Fayetteville (is) so close to us and a town in which so many of our dear friends live, for Springdale was once the home of many of those who are near and dear to each of us.

The settlement of Shilo, later called Springdale, was organized in 1840. Served by several post offices. Until 1859, served by the Fayetteville and Elm Springs post offices. The Lynch's Prairie office was established and located on the old Ed Hale place southeast of town. In 1866 it was discontinued and the Fayetteville office handled the mail until 1872. The name Shilo could not be used for a post office here, as another Shilo existed in the state. Joe Holcomb, R. Huffmaster, Baggett, Searcy and B.E. Putnam met as a committee (to find) a name for this office. After discarding the names "Holcombtown", "Huffmaster", and "Putnameville" they agreed on Springdale—named after the beautiful spring which was located below where the Legion Hut now stands. The town was incorporated April 1, 1879. Joe Holcomb, the first mayor (was) sworn in July 4. The town was then located around the city park on which the library now stands. The first industries were started in 1879: woolen mills operated by Mr. Haxton. They made yarn, cloth, and blankets. There was also a tannery along the banks of the creek. In 1881 Petross Bros. flour mill came into existence. The first real boom came in 1881 when the railroad came through. June the 8th, 1881 the first passenger train ran through Springdale. It was a hot day, so wrote Albert Smiley, no depot, many parasols and umbrellas were in evidence that eventful day. He said he remembered (that) just as the train was pulling in, James Dupree yelled out to everybody to take their umbrellas down for they might scare the train and cause it to jump the track! Such a crowd as was there; when the engineer blew the whistle, what a scattering! Many from here got on and went as far as Fayetteville. Not Albert Smiley—he said he did not have the 50¢. George Kennan (moved here in 1881) said he did not have the 50¢...Ed Hale wrote about the big celebration. He said they moved here in 1879 and Emma Avenue was a wheat field. You and I missed that *big* celebration; but what was that to youth? We had our band concerts, socials and masquerades and "Springdale Dramatic Co." played "Broken Fetters", a melodrama interspersed with comedy and tempered with sob stuff. In this particular play Jennie Dodson (was) the leading lady,

Hugh Phillips a villain, Charlie Lewis a convincing lover, etc. etc. Those were the days when the butcher threw in a chunk of liver *free* with a 25¢ steak.

The Lewises are really going to appear on the scene (in the enclosed newspaper clippings)—Dora J. Martin

December 29, 1882: The following couples went to Fayetteville yesterday and took dinner with Miss Cener Holcomb: Jno. Dodson and May Lewis, Bert Lewis and Lillie Chandler, Joe Davis and Jennie Dodson.

1887: Miss Jennie Dodson gave a croquet party to the young folks Saturday night, which was a very enjoyable affair. Those present were Misses Cener Holcomb, Minnie Lewis, Willie and Florence Kennan, Sammie Griggs, Mabel Stafford and Annie Cowan, Messrs. Ed Corley, B. Wilson, Bob Reed, Artie Lewis, Jo Kennedy, White Kennan, Simon McLeod, Dr. E.F. Ellis and Jno. P. Stafford.

March 4, 1888: The school board on Wednesday selected the teachers for the public school which opens Monday, March 4. J.W. Coltrane is principal, W.M. Davis assistant, R.B. Reed second assistant, Miss Minnie Lewis third assistant.

June 1888: The band concert and raspberry supper at the public school building Tuesday night netted the band something over $30. A cake was voted to Miss Minnie Lewis as being the handsomest young lady.

October 1888: Elbert Self and Miss Willie Kennan and Chas. Dodson and Miss Minnie Lewis spent Sunday in Bentonville.

December 14, 1888: Bert Lewis, the handsome and energetic young man who, for the past eighteen months, has been holding cases on The News, has secured a lay-off and will rest up during the winter. Bert is a good workman for one so young, and by proper training and perseverence (sic) on his part, he will reach the topmost round in his profession. (Our estimate of Bert's abilities, written 35 years ago, was not over drawn, and though he abandoned newspaper work for a different calling, he has achieved marked success in a business way, being at the head of Lewis Bros. Hardware Co. at Fayetteville, and also interested in a number of other big enterprises in that town.—Editor)

January 18, 1889: This issue of The News contains a writeup of a masquerade party given at the home of A.T. Claypool, and the following is a list of those present, with the character represented: Mrs. M. Frost, goddess of night; Mrs. J.P. Deaver, night; Mrs. Jno. P. Stafford, school girl; Miss Jennie Dodson, coquette; Miss Cener Holcomb, Gypsy; Miss Bruce Hall, school girl; Miss Bessie Peebles, old lady, Miss Willie Kennan, old maid; Miss Annie Gammel, young girl; Miss Lou Pollock, Indian maiden; B.F. Deaver, Knight of the 14th century; J.P. Deaver, Indian chieftain; Charles Dodson, Indian; John Dodson, Japanese; Charles Hawn, negro preacher; M. Frost, tramp; Harry Lee, preacher; Artie Lewis, old lady; Jno. P. Stafford, clown. Those wearing plain masks were Misses Edna Winton, Lou Wines, Minnie Lewis, Mirt Petross, Kate and Myra Lee, H.A. Wagner, Isom Gladden and A.M. Reed.

February 21, ? year: Miss May Lewis taught Miss Mollie Pendergrass'

classes at the public school Friday afternoon during the latter's absence.

May 31, 1889: Mrs. A.T. Claypool gave her daughter Miss Cessna and Miss Mary Woods of Bentonville a birthday party at her residence on last Wednesday night. Guests were Chas. Renner, Mae Lewis, Chas. Lininger, Mary Woods, Willie Davis, Cessna Claypool, Bert Lewis, Mirt Petross, Buddie Gabbert, Rettie Renner, Oliver Plater, Ora Crawford, Chas. Kennedy, Elba Laughlin, Willie Evans and Kittie Smartt.

July 18, 1889: The closing exercises of the public school at this place were very interesting throughout. The entertainments at night were very good and well attended, the first one Thursday night, by students in the primary department under R.B. Reed and Miss Minnie Lewis. Friday night was by more advanced pupils under Prof. J.W. Coltrane. Barnett Smiley won the declamation contest and the recitation contest was won by Miss Cessna Claypool.

November 1, 1889: Misses Nellie Walden, Kate Patterson, May Lewis and Laura Hawn made a social call at The News office Monday night.

November 8, 1889: Bert Lewis, who for quite a while has been one of the faithful attaches of The News, severed his connection with us the first of the month, and we are sorry to part with him.

April 3, 1891: The Young People's society of Christian Endeavor, which meets at the Christian church, elected new officers Friday night, as follows: C.G. Dodson, president; L.D. Petross, vice president; Miss Minnie Lewis, secretary; Miss Cessna Claypool, treasurer.

April 10, 1891: The election for town officers passed off Tuesday, and although there was considerable interest manifested from start to finish, everything passed off quietly. The full citizens ticket was elected as follows: mayor, J.W. Lewis; recorder, C.G. Dodson; treasurer, A.E. Smyer; marshall, W.H. Dailey; aldermen: W.B. Brogdon, W.T. Farrar, I.T. Lane, E.S. Horton, S.N. Haxton.

May 8, 1891: The new city council held its first meeting Monday afternoon in one of the rooms over W.Y. Winton's drug store, which will be the regular place of meeting. Mayor Lewis presiding. Little was done except the organization which was as follows: street committee—I.T. Lane, W.T. Farrar, W.B. Brogdon; cemetery committee—E.S. Horton, W.B. Brogdon, S.N. Haxton; sanitary committee— I.T. Lane, E.S. Horton, S.N. Haxton; committee to settle with the city—I.T. Lane, W.T. Farrar, W.B. Brogdon. The bond of treasurer Smyer was approved and the marshal was ordered to request A.M. Kennan to build a new sidewalk in front of his property on Emma Avenue...Charles and Bert Lewis went to Wager Tuesday for the avowed purpose of fishing for fish but they did not succeed in fishing fish...The strawberry season opened up last Tuesday. Six crates of strawberries and two crates of gooseberries were shipped on the afternoon train.

June 12, 1891: That was the jolliest crowd that ever went afishing which left town Tuesday morning bound for the eautiful Osage. Among the party were Mr. and Mrs. G.M. Gabbert, Mr. and Mrs. B.F. Deaver, Mr. C.G. Dodson, Miss Minnie Lewis, Mr. Bert Lewis and Miss Anga Lowdermilk.

November 20, 1891: A sacred concert will be given at the South

Methodist church on thanksgiving night. Rev. J.D.L. Houston will take part. Several numbers will be given by a double quartet. Recitations and songs will be by the following: Annie Lewis, Frank Deaver, Bertha Deaver, Etta Stokes, Nora Scott, Kate Renner, Daisy Young, Ashton Vincenheller, Mamie Phillips, May Lewis and Master Hugh Patterson.

1892: Miss May Lewis is now clerking in the store of her father, J.W. Lewis. She will make a first-rate clerk. The News wishes her success.

February, 1892: Bert S. Lewis, who for quite a while has been a trusted employee in the establishment of H.A. Daily, is now smiling from behind the counters of W.Y. Winton, having entered upon his duties this morning.

March 22, 1892: A very quiet, though nonetheless happy, wedding occurred Tuesday night at the residence of Mayor J.W. Lewis. It was that of Miss Minnie Lewis, one of Springdale's handsome and agreeable young ladies and Dr. C.G. Dodson, one of our rising young professional men. Rev. Arthur Marston of the M.E. Church, south officiating.

September 4, 1892: J.W. Lewis is surely the happiest man in town now, being the happy father of an 11 pound boy who made his appearance last Saturday night. All are doing well. (This was Paul Lewis.)

February 3, 1893: A concert will be given at the Opera House Saturday night under the auspices of the choir of M.E. Church, south, when the following program will be rendered: Instrumental quartette, "Ivy", Messrs. Stewart, Stafford, Keither and Dodson; vocal quartette, "Moonlight on the Lake", the Misses Patterson and Messrs. Dodson and Treadwell; recitation, "Life Boat", Miss Jeanie Vincenheller; vocal solo, "Tit for Tat", Miss Mamie Phillips; recition, "Last Appeal", Miss May Lewis; bass solo, "O, Ye Tears", Prof. S. Treadwell; ballad opera, "Three Old Maids" with the following cast of characters: Fannie, Miss Nettie Dodson; Madge, Miss Ret Renner; Kate, Miss Lillie Chandler, Prince, Jno. S. Dodson; Hary, Charles Chandler; Jack, Prof. S. Treadwell; Miss Lula Bryant, organist.

May 12, 1893: B.F. Deaver, accompanied by Misses Lillie Chandler and May Lewis went down to Evansville Friday and spent a few days visiting relatives and friends.

November 1, 1893: Artie Lewis and Miss Lula Gregg of this city were united in marriage at Bentonville Wednesday, the ceremony being performed by Rev. B.C. Matthews.

March 23, 1894: Bert Lewis went up to Rogers Sunday afternoon where he is this week holding cases on the Rogers Democrat.

April 20, 1894: Artie Lewis and wife spent a portion of the week with relatives on War Eagle.

September 7, 1894: Bert Lewis is working in the hardware establishment of W.T. Farrar.

October 4, 1895: The city council met in regular session Monday night but little business was transacted. Bert Lewis was appointed city treasurer to succeed Art Lewis. The appointment is a good one. Bert is an excellent young man and will discharge the duties of treasurer in a faithful and efficient manner.

January 23, 1896: Miss Cessna Claypool gave a five o'clock dinner Satur-

day. Those present were Dr. Meehan, Messrs. Floyd Thompson, Hugh Philips, Chas. Renner, Chas. Pendergrass, Laurence Long, Arthur Graves, W.I. Thompson of Vinita, I.T., and Misses Mollie Pendergrass, Maggie Landes, Jennie Dodson, Ret Renner, May Lewis, Nettie Dodson, and Jno. P. Stafford and wife.

March 27, 1896: The ladies of the Methodist church will serve an Easter supper in the brick building of the Arcade hotel Wednesday evening, April 1 from 6 to 10 o'clock. Supper will consist of bread and butter, pickles, cake, custard pie and eggs served in all styles, hot. Supper 15¢ each."

May 1, 1896: John Myers, J.H. Stubbs, Chas. Renner, Hugh Philips, Floyd Thompson and Garland Ownbey went down to Osage Wednesday morning and when they return today they will tell their friends how easy it is to catch fish.

April 5, 1897: Monday was the 21st birthday anniversary of Miss Nettie Dodson and a supper was given at the home of her parents, Eld. and Mrs. James Dodson, in honor of the event. Those present were Dr. Meehan and Miss Mollie Pendergrass, Charles Pendergrass and Miss Kate Renner, C.G. Dodson and Miss Ret Renner, Urie Harris and Miss Lillian Chandler, John Davis and Miss Dora Smyer, John Myers and Miss May Lewis, Charles Renner and Miss Cess Claypool, Jerry Long and Miss Emma Hale, Arthur Graves, Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Dodson.

June 1897: At a meeting of the school board held Saturday Prof. S.T. Davis of Chichala, Ark., was elected principal and Clyde Simmons of Bolivar, Mo., assistant principal. Other teachers elected were Miss Lila Ellis of Fayetteville, Miss Mary Pharr, Miss Lillie Chandler, Miss May Lewis and Mrs. B.F. Deaver.

1898: Will Lewis has sold his dray business to Will Clemmer...Evacuation for the foundation of the new Baptist church has begun.

July 6, 1900: Quite an important deal was made this week when C.M. Lawson becomes owner of the mercantile business of James Dodson & Son. *Note: He also established Campbell-Bell in Fayetteville.* The firm will be styled "Springdale Cash Dry Goods Co." John Myers, who has been with the house so long, will be retained as manager.

August 10, 1900: Mrs. Ida Holcomb has accepted a position with the Springdale Dry Goods Company.

March 8, 1901: John H. Myers returned from St. Louis Saturday morning.

April 5, 1907: At a meeting held in the News office Friday night the gun club was reorganized, Charles Henson being elected manager and W.A. Graves secretary and treasurer. Mr. Henson, J.H. Myers and Jno. P. Stafford were appointed as a committee to draft a set of rules to govern the organization. The club will have a membership of about 15 and a new and improved trap has been ordered.

February 10, 1910: At a meeting of stockholders of Farmers & Merchants Bank held Saturday A.T. Lewis was elected president to succeed the late W.T. Farrar.

October 6, 1911: Mrs. J.H. Myers went down to Fayetteville Tuesday to remain during the county fair, she being one of the judges in the fancy work department.

December, 1911: Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Myers moved last week to their new home on Holcomb street.

May 15, 1914: An automobile party consisting of twelve cars from Springdale made a motor trip to Siloam Springs and back Sunday, the trip taking the entire day. Sixty-two local people were included in the party. Cars making the trip belonged to the following residents: C.F. Renner, J.P. Deaver, W.G. Ownbey, Earl East, J.R. Joyce, W.G. Thompson, W.M. Griffith, W.A. Graves, J.H. Myers, A.M. Leitzell, Guy McDavid and Jno. P. Stafford.

July, 1920: Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Myers and Miss Ora Bennett left Wednesday morning for a motor trip to Neosho, Joplin and Springfield. They went prepared to camp and expect to return the latter part of this week.

March, 1921: Paul Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Lewis of Springdale, underwent an operation Saturday for appendicitis at the city hospital at Fayetteville.

The next clipping was obviously much later than the preceding ones, but summarizes nicely the career of J.H. Myers in Springdale:

J.H. MYERS HAS BEEN WITH
SPRINGDALE CASH D.G. CO. SINCE 1899

Over 50 years in the mercantile business is the record of J.H. Myers, president of the Springdale Cash Dry Goods company, who this week starts a golden anniversary sale. He is one of the organizers of the store and has been part owner and manager for over 40 years.

Mr. Myers came to Springdale in 1897 and for a short time was associated with C.F. Ivey in his mercantile house. Later he was employed by Chandler and Son and in 1899 organized the Springdale Cash Dry Goods Company with other associates. He has been manager of the store ever since its organization. He is a director of the First National bank, and besides his banking interests owns two farms on White River. He has served the city as alderman, was a charter member of the Community club, served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Chamber of Commerce, and has been president of the Country Club ever since its organization. In 1899 he was married to Miss Mae Lewis of this city.

From a little town with "only one buggy", as Mr. Myers expresses it, Springdale has grown during the Myers' residence here to its present business-like development, and Mr. and Mrs. Myers have been among the most interested workers for the improvement of their community.

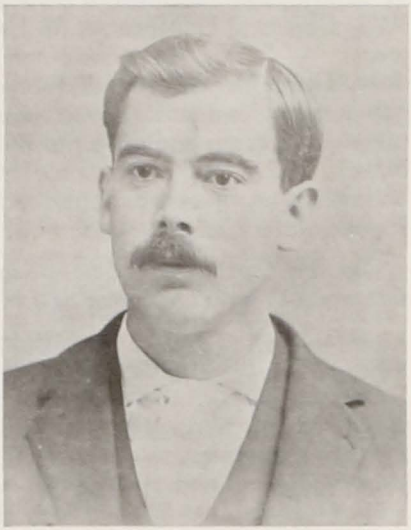
Ralph Lewis, fourth son of James W. Lewis, does not appear often in the above set of clippings. Perhaps he was not the right age to mingle socially with his sisters and elder brothers. The following letter was written on the occasion of his departure for "the West".

W.T. Farrar & Company
Wholesale and Retail Dealers in
Hardware and Builders Supplies

W.T. Farrar, Pres. A.T. Lewis, Vice-Pres. Bert S. Lewis, Sec.-Treas.

never vacant, except on account of unavoidable hindrances. We all miss her, and miss her everywhere. She was very sick for several weeks, then died as she had lived, quietly, peacefully, as one falling asleep. May the God of all comfort help the broken-hearted husband, father and mother, brothers and sister to cast their burden on Him, remembering that He careth for them and doeth all things well. We loved thee much, but Jesus loved thee more.

Minnie Lewis Dodson



Dr. Charles G. Dodson

Minnie Lewis Dodson's husband, Dr. Charles G. Dodson, lived on until 1929, and his obituary, too, was long and detailed. Part of it follows:

DR. C.G. DODSON DIED SATURDAY

Thought to Be Improving, Passed Away Suddenly At His Home in Springdale

After battling valiantly against disease for a number of months, Dr. C.G. Dodson, one of Springdale's oldest citizens and most prominent business men, died suddenly Saturday afternoon about 1:30 o'clock at his home on Main and Meadow streets, death being probably due to heart attack. He was found dead in the bath room at his home by L.M. Riggs, a business associate. Dr. Dodson was taken ill last fall with heart and liver trouble, and on April 12 went to the hospital at Fayetteville for treatment. He showed some signs of improvement, and for a week or ten days prior to his death he was brought home each day, returning to the hospital for the night. He spent the day as usual in Springdale Friday and was down town circulating among friends and looking after business matters. Saturday morning Fay Stafford motored to Fayetteville after Dr. Dodson, returning about 10:30. He got out of the car at his home, and went into the home of his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Nickerson, who live in an adjoining house. About one o'clock he went across to his own home, his sister thinking probably he wished to lie down. A friend called at his home to see him, and fail-

Springdale, Ark., Mch. 20, 1906
To everyone:

This will introduce to you Ralph Lewis who has been in my employ for four years. He is an untiring worker, strictly honest and truthful and worthy of your confidence. If you can, give him a job. As soon as the Western fever has subsided, he has his old job waiting for him here. The more you know of this boy, the better you will like him.

Yours very truly, W.T. Farrar

Ralph was back home in Springdale in less than a year and shortly thereafter married Ova Berry, daughter of T.W. Berry who owned the general store at Hindsville. As seems obvious from a bill to Ralph Lewis for furniture, dated October 15, 1907, furnishing a home in those days was a pretty reasonable proposition (at least from the W.T. Farrar Furniture Co. of Springdale):

6 D. chairs	5.70	Springs	1.95
1 Rocker	3.50	34 2/3 yd. Matting	6.95
1 Rocker	1.05	1 6' shade	1.25
1 Sofa	8.90	1 6'3" shade	1.35
Mattress	2.95	Extra Fixtures	.05
D. Table	6.00	Rug	11.50
Dresser	10.00	Drayage to Fayetteville	3.25
Stand Table	2.50		
Dray TWB 10¢, JWL 10¢	.20		
K. Cabinet	4.25		

Miss Minnie Lewis whose name appears often in the clippings collected by Mrs. Hart, and whose marriage is noted on March 22, 1892, lived only a short time after that wedding. Her obituary, written by her pastor, is a good example of emotion-charged death notices in those days:

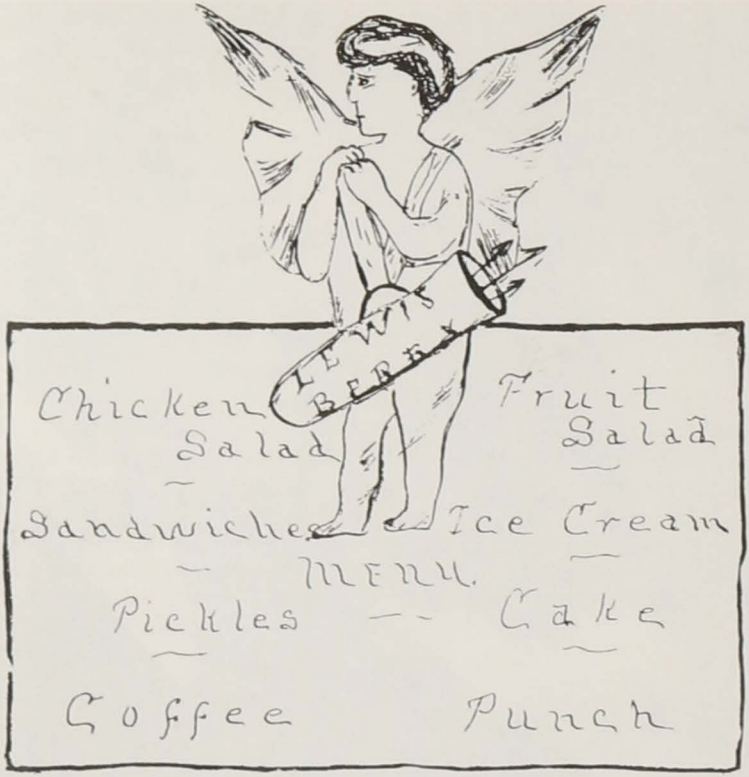
DODSON - Mrs. Minnie Dodson, wife of Chas. G. Dodson, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Lewis, of Springdale, Ark., who was born in Springfield, Mo., Dec. 4, 1869, removed with her parents to Fayetteville, Ark., in February, 1882, and to Springdale in August, 1886. When but 12 years of age she united with the M.E. Church, in Springfield, and on coming to Arkansas, united with the M.E. Church, South, in which she died July 19, 1892. On March 22, 1892, she was happily married to Chas. G. Dodson, and as both were devoted Christians and beloved by all, it seemed that a long, happy and useful life was before them. But how sad it seems to us that when the cup of happiness is filled to the brim, and when its draught has scarce been tasted, it is dashed from our hand; gloom settles on our pathway; the fondest hopes of youth are blasted; our loved ones are rudely snatched from our bosoms, and we are left in sorrow! But God is our Father; He knows what is best for us, and doeth all things well. "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." He has taken her to Himself. We all thought we could not do without her in the Church, the Sunday-school, Missionary Society, social circle and the home, in all of which she was faithful and true. Her devotion and punctuality to her Christian duties were an evidence of her love for her Master's work. Her place in Church and Sunday-school was

ing to find him, reported to employees at the First National Bank. Inquiries were made at Dr. Dodson's usual haunts, and failing to find him Mr. Riggs went to his home, and making a hasty search of the premises, found him seated in the bath room, with life extinct. He had been dead but a short time. His death was a great shock to the community, and especially to those who had seen and talked with him only a few hours previous. On the trip up from Fayetteville he told his companion that he was feeling better, and when they were leaving the hospital jokingly remarked that they were going to the best town in the world.

Dr. Dodson had written a letter making all plans for his funeral, selecting the pall bearers and ministers, and some time ago he advised his sister where to find the letter in case of his death. In compliance with his request, the body was taken to the Nix-Callison Undertaking Co. and prepared for burial by Glenn M. Riggs. It was returned to his home at 7 o'clock Saturday evening, where it remained until the funeral hour, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

J.W. Lewis Family Home, 1886-1907, Center Street, Springdale, AR

Funeral services were held at Central Methodist Church, conducted by Rev. A.L. Cline of Van Buren, and the local pastor, Rev. A.D. Stewart. Burial was in Bluff Cemetery, services at the grave being conducted by Rev. F.M. Tolleson of Fayetteville. Honorary pall bearers were J.P. Deaver, Jno. H. Myers, Jno. P. Stafford, R.O. Hannah, L.M. Riggs, W.A. Graves, J.F. Harris, L. Powell, Millard Berry, Dr. J.E. Martin, L.D. Petross, A.A. Backus, J.J. Banks, Wilson Cardwell, of Springdale; C.F. Renner, Springfield, Mo.,; A.T. Lewis, Tom Hart, Marion Wasson, Frank Hall, Fayetteville; J.H. Zellner, L.L. Baggett, Prairie Grove; Henry Cowan, Edwin Jackson, Rogers.

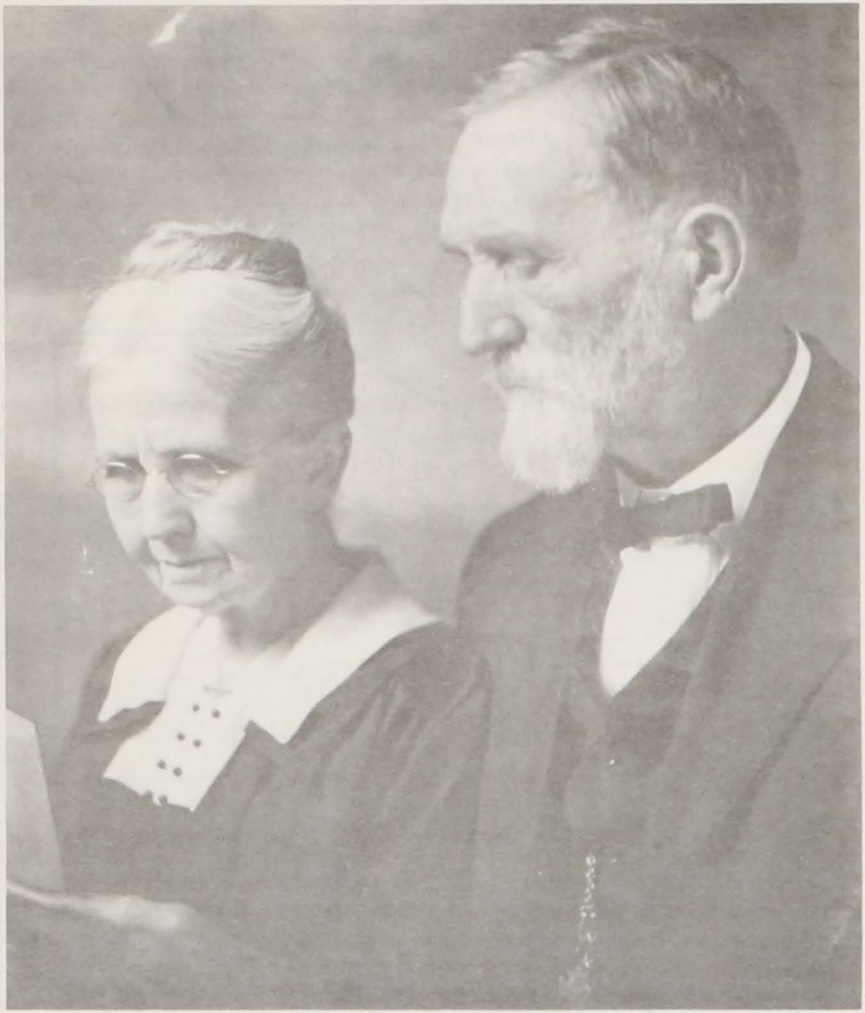


Hand done menu for party announcing engagement of Ova Berry and Ralph Lewis

Active pall bearers were Fay Stafford, J.F. Deaver, P.W. Boone, Elmer Linebarger, Springdale; Paul Lewis, Fayetteville; Maurice Renner, Springfield, Mo.

Charles G. Dodson was born in Lawrence County, Ark., near Imboden, July 2, 1865, being a son of Gibson and Mollie Dodson. While an infant less than one year old he came with his parents to Benton County, residing on a farm west of Lowell. In 1879 the family moved to Springdale, which remained the family home, both parents having died a number of years ago.

Dr. Dodson was educated in the schools of Springdale, following which he studied dentistry under the late Dr. J.B. Dare, and later graduated from the dental department of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. He opened an office in Springdale and for a number of years followed the profession with success. He began investments in a small way, and being a man of keen judgment his business grew to such proportions that he gave up the practice of dentistry to give his whole time to his other affairs. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Springdale, being elected its first president, and holding that position continuously until a few months ago



Mr. and Mrs. James Washington Lewis

when he resigned on account of failing health. Other local business concerns with which he was identified are the Springdale Cash Dry Goods Company, Hub Clothing Company, Pioneer Lumber Company and Washington County Hardware Company. He was a stockholder in the Benton County Hardware Company, First National Bank of Rogers, Ozark Grocery Company of Fayetteville, Porter-Crews Drug Company of Muskogee, Okla, West Fork Hardware and Lumber Co., and Elm Springs Hardware and Lumber Co., both in this city. He was the owner of considerable real estate, both town and farm property.

Dr. Dodson took a prominent part in public activities. He was one of the

commissioners for the construction of the municipal water and sewer system, and was an active figure in securing the location of the plant of the Welch Grape Juice Company at this place.

March 22, 1892, Dr. Dodson was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Lewis, who lived less than a year after their marriage. January 31, 1899, he was united in marriage to Miss Retta E. Renner, who died October 23, 1911. He was the father of two children by his second marriage, both of whom died at birth. He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Jennie Nickerson, and by an aunt, Mrs. M.J. Smith, both of Springdale.

The obituary goes on to describe Dr. Dodson's profession of religion, but the most unusual part of the story is a detailed account of his will, listing all beneficiaries and giving the very specific instructions he left for his grave marker. The will was witnessed by J.F. Deaver, A.M. Ballew, and J.A. Baggett. Bequests were made to his sister, niece, Chas. F. Renner, Mack Rennder, Mrs. Ellen Phenicie, Mrs. Katherin Patterson, Bluff Cemetery Association, city of Springdale, First National Bank, Springdale High School, City Hospital at Fayetteville, Methodist Episcopal Church, South (Springdale), Galloway College (Searcy), Hendrix College (Conway), and John Brown school at Siloam Springs. The obituary states: "The value of the estate will not be known until an inventory is made, but Dr. Dodson was known to be one of the wealthiest men in Springdale. Some estimate his holdings at from $200,000 to $250,000."

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association will be held April 17-19, 1985, at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Little Rock. The Program Committee will consider all topics dealing with Arkansas history. In keeping with the sesquicentennial celebration, it is interested especially in papers that explore large themes or assess the significance of long-term issues. In addition, the committee invites papers dealing with the host city of Little Rock. Presentations of papers are limited to twenty minutes.

Persons interested in giving papers should send a one page description of their topic by November 1 to:

S. Charles Bolton, Program Chairman
Department of History
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
33rd and University
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204
Phone (501) 569-3235

AN EARLY OZARKS CHRISTMAS TREE

by Ernie Deane *(Courtesy of Springdale News)*

In a scrapbook started in the 1880s by a Benton County girl is a clipping which tells of the first Christmas tree "that ever greeted the eyes of the children of the village (of Fayetteville)." The scrapbook was kept by Minnie

Blackburn, granddaughter of Sylvanus Blackburn of War Eagle fame, and has been handed down through the family.

The report on Christmas doings in Fayetteville was written by H.J. Van Hoose who was a Kentuckian by birth, brought into Arkansas by his parents in 1839 when he was nine years old. He lived in Fayetteville from 1852 until his death in 1900. In addition to his commercial activities in the merchandise and insurance business, he was a prolific writer for newspapers. Much can be learned from his articles about people and life in the Ozarks during much of the 19th century. Such an article is one of those in the Blackburn scrapbook, datelined Fayetteville, December 25, 1894, and probably published by a newspaper in Benton County.

He had been to a Christmas dinner earlier that day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen K. Stone, pioneer settlers of Fayetteville. They were his longtime friends. And, in fact, they had welcomed him as a Christmas party guest soon after he came to the village.

At the 1894 dinner, "I learned some facts in regard to the early history of our town, which I will give as they may be of interest to some of the present generation who take an interest in the early history of our fast-growing city.

"The first Christmas tree that ever greeted the eyes of the children of the village was in a log house which stood on East Street, south of the public square," he wrote. "An old German named Reddick lived in that log house and sold goods from one end of it, and he also made toys out of wood, being a very ingenious workman.

"On Christmas 1839 he gave a Christmas party and had a Christmas tree loaded with toys of his own manufacture, and charged 10 cents admission to those who came to look upon this new feature in Christmas celebration. After they had satisfied their curiosity and were preparing to leave, he presented each person present with a Christmas toy as a souvenir of the happy occasion."

Van Hoose added this note, "In these later days (1894) Christmas trees are no curiosity to the children of the town, but are seen in every church on Christmas Eve and during the holidays."

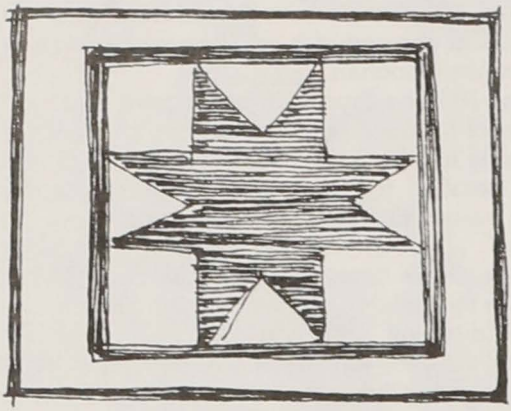
This account by the early-day merchant and journalist is the earliest I have ever seen concerning a Christmas tree anywhere in the Ozarks. I mention this fact, thinking that readers might have information about other early 19th century Christmases, at which there were decorated trees, and gifts hanging thereon.

Unfortunately, no information has been found concerning the "old German named Reddick" who introduced the (fir tree) tannenbaum and wooden toys to the villagers of the frontier settlement of Fayetteville. Additional search, I hope, will turn up details about him.

QUERIES

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE "MOURNING QUILT"?

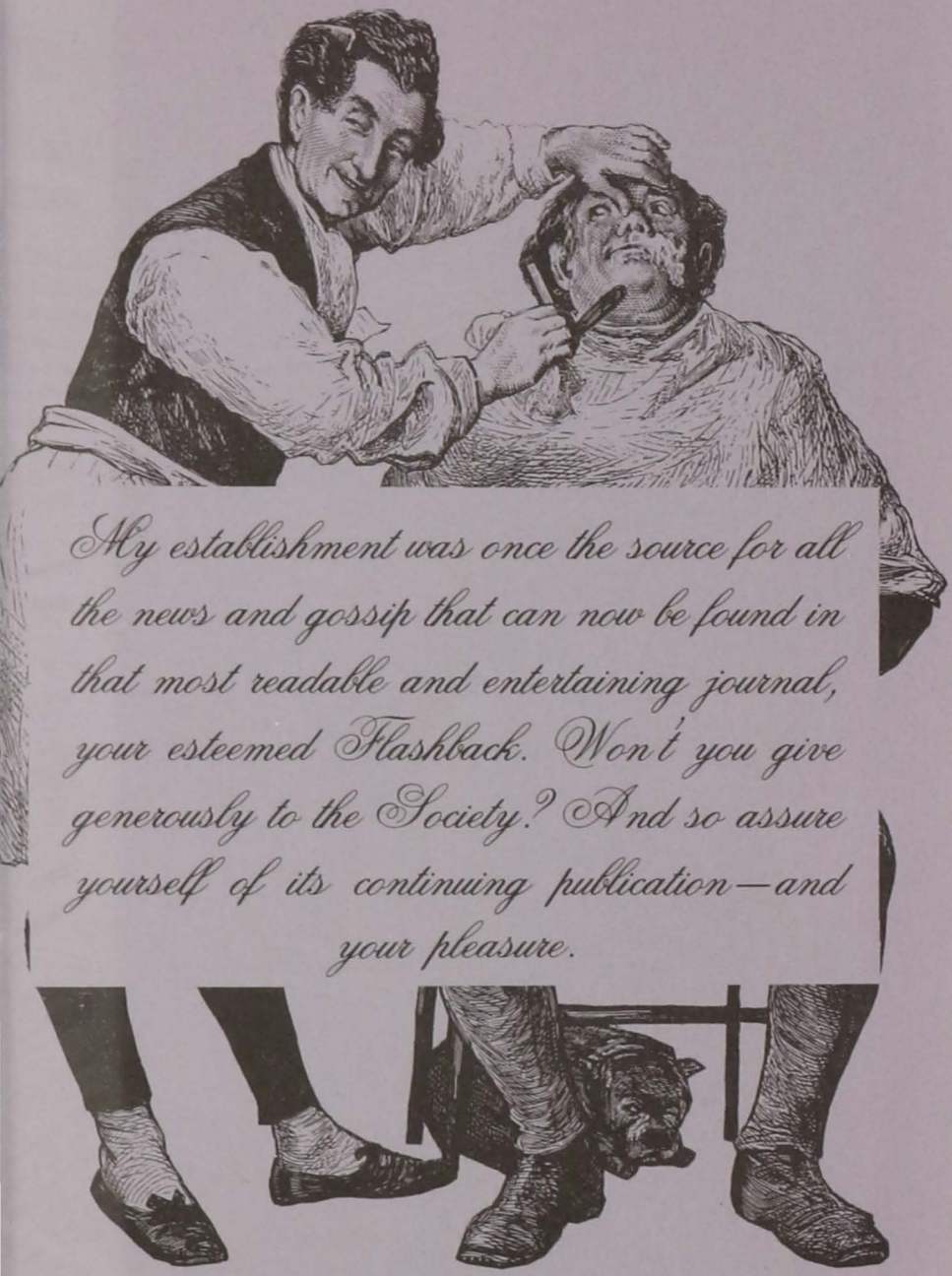
Mrs. George Rose Smith of Little Rock has had in her family for a long time a black and white "mourning quilt", believed to have been made by someone "near Fayetteville". The pattern is the familiar large eight-point star, bound by a two-inch black square on a white field, and the quilt is edged in black. Is anyone out there familiar with the "mourning quilt" idea? This is the only example seen or heard of by many people already quizzed. Do you have knowledge of anyone "near Fayetteville" or elsewhere who might have made such a quilt or have been familiar with the concept? If you have any information on this or other "mourning quilts" please write to Mrs. George Rose Smith, Arkansas Territorial Restoration, 3rd and Scott, Little Rock, AR 72202.



ARKANSAS QUILT CONTEST - SESQUICENTENNIAL PROJECT

Registration Deadline: November 15, 1985

There is still time to register for the Arkansas Quilt Contest sponsored by the Arkansas Territorial Restoration. Purchase prizes for the contest will total $3,350. Quilters may choose to compete in any or all of the six design theme categories. Winners will be exhibited all over the state. Further information can be obtained from Arkansas Territorial Restoration, 3rd and Scott, Little Rock, AR 72202. Telephone - 271-2348.



My establishment was once the source for all the news and gossip that can now be found in that most readable and entertaining journal, your esteemed Flashback. Won't you give generously to the Society? And so assure yourself of its continuing publication—and your pleasure.

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